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VOL. XIII.

Being the SECOND VOLUME of

THE

ADVENTURES

OF

Ferdinand Count Fathom.

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THE

ADVENTURES

OF

Ferdinand Count Fathom.

By the Author of RODERICK RANDOM.

——Materiam riſus, invenit ad omnes
Occurſus hominum ——————
Ridebat curas, nec non et gaudia vulgi;
Interdum et lachrymas fundebat.——

VOL. II.

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M.DCC.LXXX.

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THE

ADVENTURES

OF

Ferdinand Count Fathom.

[*Continuation of* CHAP. XXI.]

COMMON fear was a comfortable ſenſation to what Fathom felt on this excurſion. The firſt ſteps he had taken for his preſervation, were the effects of mere inſtinct, while his faculties were extinguiſhed or ſuppreſſed by deſpair; but, now as his reflection began to recur, he was haunted by the moſt intolerable apprehenſions. Every whiſper of the wind thro' the thickets was ſwelled into the hoarſe menaces of murder, the ſhaking of the boughs was conſtrued into the brandiſhing of poignards, and every ſhadow of a tree became the apparition of a ruffian eager for blood. In ſhort, at each of theſe occurrences he felt what was infinitely more tormenting than the ſtab of a real dagger; and at every freſh fillip of his fear he acted as remembrancer to his conductreſs, in a new volley of imprecations, importing, that her life was abſolutely connected with his opinion of his own ſafety.

Human nature could not long ſubſiſt under ſuch complicated terror: at laſt he found himſelf clear of the foreſt, and was bleſſed with the diſtant view of

an inhabited place: he then began to exerciſe his thoughts upon a new ſubject. He debated with himſelf, whether he ſhould make a parade of his intrepidity and public ſpirit, by diſcloſing his atchievement, and ſurrendering his guide to the penalty of the law; or leave the old hag and her accomplices to the remorſe of their own conſciences, and proceed quietly on his journey to Paris, in undiſturbed poſſeſſion of the prize he had already obtained. This laſt ſtep he determined to take, upon recollecting, that, in the courſe of his information, the ſtory of the murdered ſtranger would infallibly attract the attention of juſtice, and in that caſe, the effects he had borrowed from the defunct muſt be refunded for the benefit of thoſe who had a right to the ſucceſſion. This was an argument which our adventurer could not reſiſt; he foreſaw that he ſhould be ſtript of his acquiſition, which he looked upon as the fair fruits of his valour and ſagacity; and moreover, be detained as an evidence againſt the robbers, to the manifeſt detriment of his affairs: perhaps too he had motives of conſcience, that diſſuaded him from bearing witneſs againſt a ſet of people whoſe principles did not much differ from his own.

Influenced by ſuch conſiderations, he yielded to the firſt importunity of the beldam, whom he diſmiſſed at a very ſmall diſtance from the village, after he had earneſtly exhorted her to quit ſuch an atrocious courſe of life, and atone for her paſt crimes, by ſacrificing her aſſociates to the demands of juſtice. She did not fail to vow a perfect reformation, and to proſtrate herſelf before him for the favour ſhe had found: then ſhe betook herſelf to her habitation, with full purpoſe of adviſing her fellow-murderers to repair with all diſpatch to the village, and impeach our hero, who, wiſely diſtruſting her profeſſions, ſtaid no longer in the place than to hire a guide for the next ſtage, which brought him to the city of Chalons ſur Marne.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXII.

He arrives at Paris, and is pleaſed with his reception.

HE was not ſo ſmitten with the delightful ſituation of this ancient town, but that he abandoned it as ſoon as he could procure a poſt-chaiſe, in which he arrived at Paris, without having been expoſed to any other troubleſome adventure upon the road. He took lodgings at a certain hotel in the Fauxbourg de St. Germain, which is the general rendezvous of all the ſtrangers that reſort to this capital, and now ſincerely congratulated himſelf upon his happy eſcape from his Hungarian connections, and from the ſnares of the banditti, as well as upon the ſpoils of the dead body, and his arrival at Paris, from whence there was ſuch a ſhort conveyance to England, whither he was attracted, by far other motives than that of filial veneration for his native ſoil.

He ſuppreſſed all his letters of recommendation, which he juſtly concluded would ſubject him to a tedious courſe of attendance upon the great, and lay him under the neceſſity of ſoliciting preferment in the army, than which nothing was farther from his inclination; and reſolved to make his appearance in the character of a private gentleman, which would ſupply him with opportunities of examining the different ſcenes of life in ſuch a gay metropolis, ſo as that he ſhould be able to chuſe that ſphere in which he could move the moſt effectually to his own advantage. He accordingly hired an occaſional domeſtic, and, under the denomination of count Fadome, which he had retained ſince his elopement from Renaldo, repaired to dinner at an ordinary, to which he was directed as a reputable place, frequented by faſhionable ſtrangers of all nations.

He found this piece of information perfectly juſt; for he no ſooner entered the apartment, than his ears were ſaluted with a ſtrange confuſion of ſounds,

among which he at once distinguished the high and low Dutch, barbarous French, Italian and English languages. He was rejoiced at this occasion of displaying his own qualifications, took his place at one of three long tables, betwixt a Westphalian count, and a Bolognian marquis, insinuated himself into the conversation with his usual address, and in less than half an hour found means to accost a native of each different country in his own mother tongue.

Such extensive knowledge did not pass unobserved. A French abbé, in a provincial dialect, complimented him upon his retaining that purity in pronunciation, which is not to be found in the speech of a Parisian. The Bolognian, mistaking him for a Tuscan, 'Sir,' said he, 'I presume you are from 'Florence: I hope the illustrious house of Lorrain 'leaves you gentlemen of that famous city no room 'to regret the loss of your own princes.' The castle of Versailles becoming the subject of conversation, Monsieur le Compte appealed to him, as to a native German, whether it was not inferior in point of magnificence to the Chateau of Grubenhagen: the Dutch officer, addressing himself to Fathom, drank to the prosperity of Faderland, and asked if he had not once served in garrison at Schenkenschans; and an English knight swore, with great assurance, that he had frequently rambled with him at midnight among the hundreds of Drury.

To each person he replied, in a polite, though mysterious manner, which did not fail to inhance their opinion of his good breeding and importance; and, long before the desert appeared, he was by all the company supposed to be a personage of great consequence, who for some substantial reasons found it convenient to keep himself incognito. This being the case, it is not to be doubted that particular civilities were poured upon him from all quarters: he perceived their sentiments; and encouraged them, by behaving with that sort of complaisance which seems

ſeems to be the reſult of engaging condeſcenſion in a character of ſuperior dignity and ſtation. His affability was general; but his chief attention limited to thoſe gentlemen already mentioned, who chanced to ſit neareſt him at table; and he no ſooner gave them to underſtand that he was an utter ſtranger in Paris, than they unanimouſly begged to have the honour of making him acquainted with the different curioſities peculiar to that metropolis.

He accepted of their hoſpitality, accompanied them to a coffee-houſe in the afternoon, from whence they repaired to the opera, and afterwards adjourned to a noted hotel, in order to ſpend the remaining part of the evening. It was here that our hero ſecured himſelf effectually in the footing he had gained in their good graces: he in a moment ſaw through all the characters of the party, and adapted himſelf to the humour of each individual, without deſcending from that elevation of behaviour which he perceived would operate among them in his behalf. With the Italian he diſcourſed on muſic, in the ſtile of a connoiſſeur; and indeed had a better claim to that title than the generality of thoſe upon whom it is uſually conferred; for he underſtood the art in theory as well as in practice, and would have made no contemptible figure among the beſt performers of the age.

He harangued upon taſte and genius to the abbé, who was a wit and critic, ex officio, or rather ex veſtitu; for, a young pert Frenchman, the very moment he puts on the petit collet, or little band, looks upon himſelf as an inſpired ſon of Apollo; and every one of the fraternity thinks it incumbent upon him to aſſert the divinity of his miſſion: in a word, the abbés are a ſet of people, that bear a ſtrong analogy to the templars in London. Fools of each fabric, ſharpers of all ſorts, and dunces of every degree, profeſs themſelves of both orders: the templar is, generally ſpeaking, a prig, ſo is the abbé; both

are diſtinguiſhed by an air of petulance and ſelf-conceit, which holds a middle rank betwixt the inſolence of a firſt-rate buck, and the learned pride of a ſupercilious pedant. The abbé is ſuppoſed to be a younger brother in queſt of preferment in the church: the Temple is conſidered as a receptacle or ſeminary for younger ſons, intended for the bar; but a great number of each profeſſion turn aſide into other paths of life, long before they reach theſe propoſed goals: an abbé is often metamorphoſed into a foot-ſoldier; a templar ſometimes ſinks into an attorney's clerk: the gallies of France abound with abbés; and many templars may be found in our American plantations; not to mention thoſe who have made a public exit nearer home. Yet I would not have it thought that my deſcription includes every individual of thoſe ſocieties. Some of the greateſt ſcholars, politicians, and wits, that ever Europe produced, have wore the habit of an abbé; and many of our moſt noble families in England derive their honours from thoſe who have ſtudied law in the Temple: the worthy ſons of every community ſhall always be ſacred from my cenſure and ridicule; and, while I laugh at the folly of particular members, I can ſtill honour and revere the inſtitution.

But, let us return from this compariſon, which ſome readers may think impertinent and unſeaſonable; and obſerve, that the Weſtphalian count, Dutch officer, and Engliſh knight, were not excepted from the particular regard and attention of our adventurer: he pledged the German in every bumper; flattered the Hollander with compliments upon the induſtry, wealth, and policy of the ſeven united provinces; but he reſerved his chief battery for his own countryman, on the ſuppoſition that he was, in all reſpects, the beſt adapted for the purpoſes of a needy gameſter; him, therefore, he cultivated with extraordinary care and ſingular obſervance; for he ſoon perceived him to be an humouriſt, and, from that

that circumſtance, derived an happy preſage of his own ſucceſs. The baronet's diſpoſition ſeemed to be caſt in the true Engliſh mould. He was ſour, ſilent, and contemptuous; his very looks indicated a conſciouſneſs of ſuperior wealth, and he never opened his mouth, except to make ſome dry, ſarcaſtic, national reflection; nor was his behaviour free from that air of ſuſpicion which a man puts on, when he believes himſelf in a crowd of pick-pockets, whom his caution and vigilance ſet at defiance: in a word, though his tongue was ſilent on the ſubject, his whole demeanour was continually ſaying, You are all a 'pack of poor louſy raſcals, who have a deſign upon 'my purſe: 'tis true, I could buy your whole gene-'ration, but I won't be bubbled, d'ye ſee; I am 'aware of your flattery, and upon my guard againſt 'all your knaviſh pranks; and I come into your 'company for my own amuſement only.'

Fathom having reconnoitred this peculiarity of temper, inſtead of treating him with that aſſiduous complaiſance, which he received from the other gentlemen of the party, kept aloof from him in the converſation, with a remarkable ſhyneſs of diſtant civility, and ſeldom took notice of what he ſaid, except with a view to contradict him, or retort ſome of his ſatirical obſervations. This he conceived to be the beſt method of acquiring his good opinion; becauſe the Engliſhman would naturally conclude he was a perſon who could have no ſiniſter views upon his fortune, elſe he would have choſen quite a different manner of deportment. Accordingly, the knight ſeemed to bite at the hook: he liſtened to Ferdinand with uncommon regard; he was even heard to commend his remarks; and at length drank to their better acquaintance.

CHAP. XXIII.

Acquits himself with address in a nocturnal riot.

THE Italian and the abbé were the first who began to grow whimsical under the influence of the burgundy; and in the heat of their elevation, proposed that the company should amuse themselves during the remaining part of the night, at the house of an obliging dame, who maintained a troop of fair nymphs for the accommodation of the other sex. The proposal was approved by all, except the Hollander, whose œconomy the wine had not as yet invaded; and, while he retreated soberly to his own lodgings, the rest of the society adjourned in two coaches to the temple of love, where they were received by the venerable priestess, a personage turned of seventy, who seemed to exercise the functions of her calling, in despight of the most cruel ravages of time: for age had bent her into the form of a Turkish bow: her head was agitated by the palsy, like the leaf of the poplar-tree; her hair fell down in scanty parcels, as white as the driven snow: her face was not simply wrinkled, but ploughed into innumerable furrows; her jaws could not boast of one remaining tooth; one eye distilled a large quantity of rheum, by virtue of the fiery edge that surrounded it; the other was altogether extinguished, and she had lost her nose in the course of her ministration. The Delphic sibyl was but a type of this hoary matron, who by her figure might have been mistaken for the consort of chaos, or mother of time. Yet there was something meritorious in her appearance, as it denoted her an indefatigable minister to the pleasure of mankind; and as it formed an agreeable contrast with the beauty and youth of the fair damsels that wantoned in her train. It resembled those discords in music, which, properly disposed, contribute to the harmony of the whole piece: or those horrible giants who, in the world of romance, used to

guard

guard the gates of the caſtle, in which the inchanted damſel was confined.

This Urganda ſeemed to be aware of her own importance, and perfectly well acquainted with the human appetite; for ſhe compelled the whole company to undergo her embrace; then a lacquey in a magnificent livery uſhered them into a ſuperb apartment, where they waited ſome minutes, without being favoured with the appearance of the ladies, to the manifeſt diſſatisfaction of the abbé, who, ſending for the gouvernante, reprimanded her ſeverely for her want of politeſſe. The old lady, who was by no means a pattern of patience and ſubmiſſion, retorted his reproaches with great emphaſis and vivacity: her eloquence flowed altogether in the Covent-garden ſtrain; and I queſtion whether the celebrated mother Douglaſs herſelf could have made ſuch a figure in an extemporaneous altercation.

After having beſtowed upon the abbé the epithets of ſaucy inſignificant pimp, ſhe put him in mind of the good offices which he had received at her hands; how ſhe had ſupplied him with bed, board, and bedfellow, in his greateſt neceſſity; ſent him abroad with money in his pockets, and, in a word, cheriſhed him in her boſom, when his own mother had abandoned him to diſtreſs: ſhe then reviled him for preſuming to affront her before ſtrangers, and gave the company to underſtand, that the young ladies would wait upon them as ſoon as they could be confeſſed and received abſolution from a worthy cordelier, who was now employed in performing that charitable office. The gentlemen were ſatisfied with this remonſtrance, which argued the old lady's pious concern for the ſouls that were under her care, and our adventurer propoſed an accommodation betwixt her and the abbé, who was prevailed upon to aſk her pardon, and received her bleſſing upon her knees.

This affair had not been long adjuſted, when five damſels were introduced in a very gay diſhabille, and

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our hero was complimented with the privilege of chuſing his Amanda from the whole bevy: when he was provided, the others began to pair themſelves, and unhappily the German count chanced to pitch upon the ſame nymph who had captivated the deſires of the Britiſh knight: a diſpute immediately enſued, for the Engliſhman made his addreſſes to the lady, without paying the leaſt regard to the priority of the other's claim; and ſhe being pleaſed with his attachment, did not ſcruple to renounce his rival, who ſwore by the thunder, lightning, and ſacrament, that he would not quit his pretenſions for any prince in Chriſtendom, much leſs for a little Engliſh chevalier, whom he had already honoured too much in condeſcending to be his companion.

The knight, provoked at this ſtately declaration, which was the immediate effect of anger and ebriety, eyed his antagoniſt with a moſt contemptuous aſpect, and adviſed him to avoid ſuch compariſons for the future: 'We all know,' ſaid he, 'the importance 'of a German count; I ſuppoſe your revenue a-'mounts to three hundred rixdollars; and you have 'a chateau that looks like the ruins of an Engliſh 'gaol. I will bind myſelf to lend you a thouſand 'pounds upon a mortgage of your eſtate (and a bad 'bargain I am ſure I ſhall have), if I do not, in leſs 'than two months, find a yeoman of Kent, who 'ſpends more in ſtrong ale than the ſum total of 'your yearly income; and were the truth known, I 'believe that lace upon your coat is no better than 'tinſel, and thoſe fringed ruffles, with fine Holland 'ſleeves, tacked to a ſhirt of brown canvas, ſo that, 'were you to undreſs yourſelf before the lady, you 'would only expoſe your own poverty and pride.'

The count was ſo much enraged at theſe ſarcaſtic obſervations, that his faculty of ſpeech was overwhelmed by his reſentment; though, in order to acquit himſelf of the Engliſhman's imputation, he forthwith pulled off his clothes with ſuch fury, that his

brocard

brocard waiſtcoat was tore from top to bottom. The knight, miſtaking his meaning, conſidered this demeanour as a fair challenge, to try which was the better man in the exerciſe of boxing; and on that ſuppoſition, began to ſtrip in his turn, when he was undeceived by Fathom, who put the right interpretation upon the count's behaviour, and begged that the affair might be compromiſed. By this time the Weſtphalian recovered the uſe of his tongue, and with many threats and imprecations, deſired they would take notice how falſly he had been aſperſed, and do him juſtice in eſpouſing his claim to the damſel in queſtion.

Before the company had time or inclination to intereſt themſelves in the quarrel, his opponent obſerved that no perſon who was not a meer German, would ever dream of forcing the inclinations of a pretty girl, whom the accidents of fortune had ſubjected to his power: that ſuch compulſion was equivalent to the moſt cruel rape that could be committed; and that the lady's averſion was not at all ſurpriſing; for, to ſpeak his own ſentiments, were he a woman of pleaſure, he would as ſoon grant favours to a Weſtphalian hog, as to the perſon of his antagoniſt. The German enraged at this compariſon, was quite abandoned by his patience and diſcretion; he called the knight an Engliſh clown, and ſwearing he was the moſt untoward beaſt of a whole nation of mules, ſnatched up one of the candleſticks, which he launched at him with ſuch force and violence, that it ſung through the air, and winging its flight into the anti-chamber, encountered the ſkull of his own valet, who with immediate proſtration received the meſſage of his maſter.

The knight, that he might not be behind hand with the Weſtphalian in point of courteſy, returned the compliment with the remaining chandelier, which alſo miſſed its mark, and ſmiting a large mirrour that was fixed behind them, emitted ſuch a craſh as one might expect

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to hear if a mine were ſprung beneath a manufacture of glaſs. Both lights being thus extinguiſhed, a furious combat enſued in the dark; the Italian ſcampered off with infinite agility, as he went down ſtairs, deſired that nobody would interpoſe, becauſe it was an affair of honour, which could not be made up. The ladies conſulted their ſafety in flight; count Fathom ſlily retired to one corner of the room, while the abbé having upon him the terrors of the commiſſaire, endeavoured to appeaſe and part the combatants, and in the attempt ſuſtained a random blow upon his noſe, which ſent him howling into the other chamber, where finding his band beſmeared with his own blood, he began to caper about the apartment, in a tranſport of rage and vexation.

Mean while, the old gentlewoman being alarmed with the noiſe of the battle, and apprehenſive that it would end in murder, to the danger and diſcredit of herſelf and family, immediately muſtered up her myrmidons, of whom ſhe always retained a formidable band, and putting herſelf at their head, lighted them to the ſcene of uproar: Ferdinand, who had hitherto obſerved a ſtrict neutrality, no ſooner perceived them approach, than he leaped in between the diſputants, that he might be found acting in the character of a peace-maker; and indeed, by this time, victory had declared for the baronet, who had treated his antagoniſt with a croſs-buttock, which laid him almoſt breathleſs on the floor. The victor was prevailed upon, by the intreaties of Fathom, to quit the field of battle, and adjourn into another room, where in leſs than half an hour he received a billet from the count, defying him to ſingle combat on the frontiers of Flanders, at an appointed time and place. The challenge was immediately accepted by the knight, who being flushed with conqueſt, treated his adverſary with great contempt.

But next day, when the fumes of the burgundy were quite exhaled, and the adventure recurred

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to his remembrance and ſober reflection, he waited upon our adventurer at his lodgings, and ſolicited his advice in ſuch a manner, as gave him to underſtand that he looked upon what had happened as a drunken brawl, which ought to have no ſerious conſequences. Fathom foreſeeing that the affair might be managed for his own intereſt, profeſſed himſelf of the baronet's opinion; and without heſitation, undertook the office of a mediator, aſſuring his principal, that his honour ſhould ſuffer no ſtain in the courſe of his negociation.

Having received the Engliſhman's acknowledgments for this inſtance of friendſhip, he forthwith ſet out for the place of the German's habitation, and underſtanding he was ſtill aſleep, inſiſted upon his being immediately waked, and told, that a gentleman from the chavalier deſired to ſee him, upon buſineſs of importance, which could not be delayed. Accordingly his valet de chambre, preſſed by Fathom's importunities and remonſtrances, ventured to go in and ſhake the count by the ſhoulder; when this furious Teutonian, ſtill agitated by the fever of the preceding night, leaped out of bed in a frenzy, and ſeizing his ſword that lay upon a table, would have ſeverely puniſhed the preſumption of his ſervant, had not he been reſtrained by the entrance of Ferdinand, who with a peremptory countenance, gave him to underſtand, that the valet had acted at his immediate inſtigation; and that he was come, as the Engliſhman's friend, to concert with him proper meaſures for keeping the appointment they had made at their laſt meeting.

This meſſage effectually calmed the German, who was not a little mortified to find himſelf ſo diſagreeably diſturbed. He could not help curſing the impatience of his antagoniſt, and even hinting, that he would have acted more like a gentleman and good chriſtian, in expreſſing a deſire of ſeeing the affair accommodated, as he knew himſelf to be the aggreſſor,

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conſequently the firſt offender againſt the laws of politeneſs and good fellowſhip. Fathom finding him in a fit temper of mind, took the opportunity of aſſenting to the reaſonableneſs of his obſervation: he ventured to condemn the impetuoſity of the baronet, who, he perceived, was extremely nice and ſcrupulous in the punctilios of honour; and ſaid it was a pity that two gentlemen ſhould forfeit each other's friendſhip, much leſs expoſe their lives for ſuch a frivolous cauſe. 'My dear count,' cried the Weſtphalian, 'I am charmed to find your ſentiments ſo conformable to my own: in an honourable cauſe, I deſpiſe all danger: my courage, thank heaven, has been manifeſted in many public engagements as well as in private rencounters; but, to break with my friend, whoſe eminent virtues I admire, and even to ſeek his life, on ſuch a ſcandalous occaſion, for a little inſignificant whore, who, I ſuppoſe, took the advantage of our intoxication, to foment the quarrel; by heaven! my conſcience cannot digeſt it.'

Having expreſſed himſelf to this purpoſe, he waited impatiently for the reply of Ferdinand, who after a pauſe of deliberation, offered his ſervices in the way of mediation; though he obſerved it was a matter of great delicacy, and the event altogether uncertain. 'Nevertheleſs,' added our adventurer, 'I will ſtrive to appeaſe the knight, who, I hope, will be induced by my remonſtrances to forget the unlucky accident, which hath ſo diſagreeably interrupted your mutual friendſhip.' The German thanked him for this proof of his regard, which yielded him more ſatisfaction on account of the chevalier than of himſelf: 'for, by the tombs of my fathers!' cried he, 'I have ſo little concern for my perſonal ſafety, that if my honour were intereſted, I durſt oppoſe myſelf ſingly to the whole ban of the empire; and I am now ready, if the chevalier requires it, to give him the rendezvous in the foreſt of Senlis, either

on

'on horſeback or on foot, where this conteſt may 'be terminated with the life of one or both of us.'

Count Fathom, with a view to chaſtiſe the Weſtphalian for this rhodomontade, told him with a mortifying air of indifference, that if they were both bent upon taking the field, he would ſave himſelf the trouble of interpoſing farther in the affair; and deſired to know the hour at which it would ſuit him to take the air with the baronet: the other, not a little embarraſſed by this queſtion, ſaid with a faultering tongue, he ſhould be proud to obey the chevalier's orders; but at the ſame time owned he ſhould be much better pleaſed, if our hero would execute the pacific propoſal he had made. Fathom accordingly promiſed to exert himſelf for that purpoſe, returned to the knight, with whom he aſſumed the merit of having tranquillized the rage of an incenſed barbarian, who was now diſpoſed to a reconciliation upon equal terms: the baronet overwhelmed him with careſſes and compliments upon his friendſhip and addreſs; the parties met that ſame forenoon, as if by accident, in Fathom's apartment, where they embraced each other cordially, exchanged apologies, and renewed their former correſpondence.

Our adventurer thought he had good reaſon to congratulate himſelf upon the part he acted in this pacification; he was treated by both with ſignal marks of particular affection and eſteem. The count preſſed him to accept, as a token of his attachment, a ſword of very curious workmanſhip, which he had received in a preſent from a certain prince of the empire: the knight forced upon his finger a very ſplendid diamond ring, as a teſtimony of his gratitude and eſteem: but there was ſtill another perſon to be appeaſed, before the peace of the whole company could be eſtabliſhed. This was no other than the abbé, from whom each of the reconciled friends received at dinner a billet couched in theſe words:

'I have

'I have the honour to lament the infinite chagrin 'and mortification that compels me to addreſs my- 'ſelf in this manner to a perſon of your rank and 'eminence, whom I ſhould do myſelf the pleaſure 'of waiting upon in perſon, were I not prevented 'by the misfortune of my noſe, which was laſt night 'moſt cruelly diſarranged, by a violent contuſion I 'had the honour to receive, in attempting to compoſe 'that unhappy *fracas*, at the houſe of madam la 'Maquerelle; and what puts the finiſhing ſtroke to 'my miſhap, is my being rendered incapable of 'keeping three or four aſſignations with ladies of 'faſhion, by whom I have the honour to be parti- 'cularly eſteemed. The diſfiguration of my noſe, 'the pain I have undergone, with the diſcompoſure 'of brain which it produced, I could bear as a phi- 'loſopher; but the diſappointment of the ladies 'my glory will not permit me to overlook: and as 'you know the injury was ſuſtained in your ſervice, 'I have the pleaſure to hope you will not refuſe to 'grant ſuch reparation as will be acceptable to a 'gentleman who has the honour to be with invio- 'lable attachment,

'ſir, your moſt devoted ſlave,

'Pepin Clothaire Charlé Henri Louis Barnabe de 'Fumier.'

This epiſtle was ſo equivocal, that the perſons to whom it was addreſſed did not know whether or not they ought to interpret the contents into a challenge; when our hero obſerved, that the ambiguity of his expreſſions plainly proved there was a door left open for the accommodation; and propoſed that they ſhould forthwith viſit the writer at his own apartment: they accordingly followed his advice, and found the abbé in his morning-gown and ſlippers, with three huge night-caps on his head, and a crape hat-band tied over the middle of his face, by way of bandage to his noſe. He received his viſitors with the

the moſt ridiculous ſolemnity, being ſtill a ſtranger to the purport of their errand: but ſoon as the Weſtphalian declared they were come in conſequence of his billet, in order to aſk pardon for the undeſigned offence they had given, his features retrieved their natural vivacity, and he profeſſed himſelf perfectly ſatisfied with their polite acknowledgment. Then they condoled him upon the evil plight of his noſe, and ſeeing ſome marks upon his ſhirt, aſked with ſeeming concern, if he had loſt any blood in the fray. To this interrogation he replied, that he had ſtill a ſufficient quantity left for the occaſions of his friend; and that he ſhould deem it his greateſt glory to expend the laſt drop of it in their ſervice.

Matters being thus amicably adjuſted, they prevailed upon him to uncaſe his noſe, which retained no ſigns of the outrage he had ſuffered; and the amuſements of the day were concerted. It was in conſequence of this plan, that after the comedy, they were entertained at the count's lodgings, where quadrille was propoſed by the abbé, as the moſt innocent paſtime, and the propoſal was immediately embraced by all preſent, and by none with more alacrity than by our adventurer, who without putting forth a moiety of his terror, went home with twenty louis' clear gain: though, far from believing himſelf greatly ſuperior to the reſt of the party, in the artifices of play, he juſtly ſuſpected that they had concealed their ſkill, with a view of ſtripping him on ſome other occaſion; for he could not ſuppoſe that perſons of their figure and character ſhould be, in reality, ſuch novices as they affected to appear.

CHAP. XXIV.

He overlooks the advances of his friends, and ſmarts ſeverely for his neglect.

STEELED with this cautious maxim, he guarded himſelf from their united endeavours, in ſundry ſubſequent attacks, by which his firſt conjecture was confirmed,

confirmed, and ſtill came off conqueror, by virtue of his unparalleled fineſſe and diſcretion: till at length they ſeemed to deſpair of making him their prey, and the count began to drop ſome hints, importing a deſire of ſeeing him more cloſely united to the views and intereſt of their triumvirate. But Ferdinand, who was altogether ſelfiſh, and quite ſolitary in his proſpects, diſcouraged all thoſe advances; being reſolved to trade upon his own bottom only, and to avoid all ſuch connexions with any perſon or ſociety whatever; much more, with a ſet of raw adventurers whoſe talents he deſpiſed. With theſe ſentiments, he ſtill maintained the dignity and reſerve of his firſt appearance among them, and rather inhanced than diminiſhed that idea of importance which he had inſpired at the beginning; becauſe beſides his other qualifications, they gave him credit for the addreſs with which he kept himſelf ſuperior to their united deſigns.

While he thus enjoyed his pre-eminence, together with the fruits of his ſucceſs at play, which he managed ſo diſcreetly as never to incur the reputation of an adventurer; he one day chanced to be at the ordinary, when the company was ſurpriſed by the entrance of ſuch a figure as had never appeared before in that place. This was no other than a perſon habited in the exact uniform of an Engliſh jockey. His leathern cap, cut bob, ſuſtian frock, flannel waiſtcoat, buff breeches, hunting-boots and whip, were ſufficient of themſelves to furniſh out a phænomenon for the admiration of all Paris: but theſe peculiarities were rendered ſtill more conſpicuous by the behaviour of the man who owned them. When he croſſed the threſhold of the outward door, he produced ſuch a ſound from the ſmack of his whip, as equalled the exploſion of an ordinary cohorn; and then broke forth into the hollow of a foxhunter, which he uttered with all its variations, in a ſtrain of vociferation that ſeemed to aſtoniſh and confound the whole aſſembly.

to whom he introduced himself and his spaniel, by exclaiming in a tone something less melodious than the cry of mackarel or live cod: 'By your leave, 'gentlevolks, I hope there's no offence, in an honest 'plain Englishman's coming with money in his 'pocket, to taste a bit of your vrench frigasee and ra-'gooze.'

This declaration was made in such a wild, fantastical manner, that the greatest part of the company mistook him for some savage monster or maniac, and consulted their safety by starting up from table, and drawing their swords. The Englishman seeing such a martial apparatus produced against him, recoiled two or three steps, saying, 'Waunds, a believe 'the people are all bewitched: what do they take 'me for a beast of prey; is there no body here that 'knows sir Stentor Stile, or can speak to me in my 'own lingo?' He had no sooner pronounced these words, than the baronet, with marks of infinite surprize, ran towards him, crying, 'Good heaven! sir 'Stentor! who expected to meet with you in Paris?' Upon which, the other eyeing him very earnestly, 'Odds heartlikens,' cried he, 'my neighbour sir 'Giles Squirrel as I am a living soul!' With these words, he flew upon him like a tyger, kissed him from ear to ear, demolished his periwig, and disordered the whole œconomy of his dress, to the no small entertainment of the company.

Having well nigh stifled his countryman with embraces, and besmeared himself with pulville from head to foot, he proceeded in this manner: 'Mercy 'upon thee, knight, thou art so transmographied 'and bedaubed, and bedizened, that thou mought 'rob thy own mother without fear of information. 'Look ye here now, I will be trussed, if the very 'bitch that was brought up in thy own bosom knows 'thee again. Hey, sweetlips, here hussy, damn thee 'tuoad, do'st n't know thy old measter. Ey, ey, 'thou may'st smell till Christmas. I'll be bound to

'be

'be hanged, knight, if the creature's noſe an't foun-
'dered by the damned ſtinking perfumes you have
'got among you.'

Theſe compliments being paſt, the two knights ſat down by one another, and ſir Stentor being aſked by his neighbour, upon what errand he had croſſed the ſea, gave him to underſtand, that he had come to France, in conſequence of a wager with ſquire Snaffle, who had laid a thouſand pounds, that he, ſir Stentor, would not travel to Paris by himſelf, and for a whole month appear every day at a certain hour, in the public walks, without wearing any other dreſs than that in which he ſaw him. 'The 'fellow has got no more ſtuff in his pate, continued 'this polite ſtranger, than a jack-aſs, to think I 'could not find my way hither, thof I could not 'jabber your French lingo. Ecod! the people of 'this country are ſharp enough to find out your 'meaning, when you want to ſpend any thing 'among them: and as for the matter of dreſs, bo-'dikins! for a thouſand pounds, I would engage 'to live in the midſt of them, and ſhew myſelf 'without any clothes at all. Odd's heart! a true-'born Engliſhman needs not be afeard to ſhew his 'face, nor his backſide neither, with the beſt French-'man that ever trod the ground. Thof we Engliſh-'men don't beplaiſter our doublets with gold and 'ſilver, I believe as how we have our pockets better 'lined than moſt of our neighbours; and for all my 'bit of a fuſtian frock, that coſt me in all but forty 'ſhillings, I believe, between you and me, knight, 'I have more duſt in my fob, than all theſe pow-'dered parks put together. But the worſt of the 'matter is this; here is no ſolid belly timber in this 'country: one can't have a ſlice of a delicate ſirloin, 'or nice buttock of beef. for love nor money. Apize 'upon them! I could get no eatables upon the 'roaad, but what they call Bully, which looks like 'the fleſh of Pharaoh's lean kine ſtewed into rags

'and

and tatters; and then their peajohn, peajohn, rabbet them! one would think every old woman of this kingdom hatched pigeons from her own body.

It is not to be ſuppoſed that ſuch an original ſat unobſerved. The French and other foreigners, who had never been in England, were ſtruck dumb with amazement at the knight's appearance and deportment; while the Engliſh gueſts were overwhelmed with ſhame and confuſion, and kept a moſt wary ſilence, for fear of being recognized by their countryman. As for our adventurer, he was inwardly tranſported with joy at ſight of this curioſity. He conſidered him as a genuine, rich country booby, of the right Engliſh growth, freſh as imported; and his heart throbbed with rapture, when he heard ſir Stentor value himſelf upon the lining of his pockets: he foreſaw, indeed, that the other knight would endeavour to reſerve him for his own game; but he was too conſcious of his own accompliſhments to think he ſhould find great difficulty in ſuperſeding the influence of ſir Giles.

Mean while, the new comer was by his friend helped to ſome ragout, which pleaſed his palate ſo well, that he declared he ſhould now make a hearty meal, for the firſt time, ſince he had croſſed the water; and while his good humour prevailed, he drank to every individual around the table. Ferdinand ſeized this opportunity of inſinuating himſelf into his favour, by ſaying in Engliſh, he was glad to find there was any thing in France, that was agreeable to ſir Stentor: to this compliment the knight replied with an air of ſurprize; 'Waunds! I find 'here's another countryman of mine, in this here 'company. Sir, I am proud to ſee you with all 'my heart.' So ſpeaking, he thruſt our his right hand, acroſs the table, and ſhook our hero by the fiſt, with ſuch violence of civility, as proved very grievous to a French marquis, who, in helping him-

ſelf to ſoup, was joſtled in ſuch a manner, as to overturn the dividing ſpoon in his own boſom. The Engliſhman ſeeing the miſchief he had produced, cried, 'no offence, I hope,' in a tone of vociferation, which the marquis in all probability miſconſtrued; for he began to model his features into a very ſublime and peremptory look, when Fathom interpreted the apology, and at the ſame time, informed ſir Stentor, that although he had not himſelf the honour of being an Engliſhman, he had always entertained a moſt particular veneration for the country, and learned the language in conſequence of that eſteem.

'Blood!' anſwered the knight, 'I think myſelf 'the more obliged to you for your kind opinion, 'than if you was my countryman in good earneſt: 'for there be abundance of we Engliſh, no offence, 'ſir Giles, that ſeem to be aſhamed of their own 'nation, and leave their homes to come and ſpend 'their fortunes abroad, among a parcel of — you 'underſtand me, ſir—a word to the wiſe, as the 'ſaying is—" Here he was interrupted by an article of the ſecond courſe, that ſeemed to give him great diſturbance: this was a roaſted leveret very ſtrong of the ſumet, which happened to be placed directly under his noſe. His ſenſe of ſmelling was no ſooner encountered by the effluvia of this delicious fare, than he ſtarted up from table, exclaiming, 'Odd's my liver! here's a piece of carrion, that 'I would not offer to e'er a hound in my kennel; 'tis enough to make any chriſtian vomit both gut 'and gall;" and indeed, by the wry faces he made while he ran to the door, his ſtomach ſeemed ready to juſtify this laſt aſſertion.

The abbé, who concluded from theſe ſymptoms of diſguſt, that the leveret was not ſufficiently ſtale, began to exhibit marks of diſcontent, and deſired that it might be brought to the other end of the table, for his examination. He accordingly hung over it with

with the moſt greedy appetite, feaſting his noſtrils with the ſteams of animal putrefaction; and at length declared that the morceau was paſſable, though he owned it would have been highly perfect, had it been kept another week. Nevertheleſs, mouths were not wanting to diſcuſs it, inſipid as it was: for in three minutes there was not a veſtige to be ſeen of that which had offended the organs of ſir Stentor, who now reſumed his place, and did juſtice to the deſert. But what he ſeemed to reliſh better than any other part of the entertainment, was the converſation of our adventurer, whom after dinner, he begged to have the honour of treating with a diſh of coffee; to the ſeeming mortification of his brother knight, over which Fathom exulted in his own heart.

In ſhort, our hero, by his affability and engaging deportment, immediately gained poſſeſſion of ſir Stentor's good graces: inſomuch, that he deſired to crack a bottle with him in the evening, and they repaired to an auberge whither his fellow-knight accompanied them, not without manifeſt ſigns of reluctance. There the ſtranger gave a looſe to jollity; though at firſt he damned the burgundy as a poor, thin liquor, that ran through him in a twinkling, and inſtead of warming, cooled his heart and bowels: however, it inſenſibly ſeemed to give the lie to his imputation; for his ſpirits roſe to a more elevated pitch of mirth and good fellowſhip; he ſung or rather roared the Early Horn ſo as to alarm the whole neighbourhood, and began to ſlabber his companions, with a moſt bear-like affection. Yet, whatever haſte he made to the goal of ebriety, he was diſtanced by his brother baronet, who from the beginning of the party had made little other uſe of his mouth, than to receive the glaſs, and now ſunk down upon the floor, in a ſtate of temporary annihilation

He was immediately carried to bed by the direction of Ferdinand, who now ſaw himſelf in a manner poſſeſſor of that mine, to which he had made ſuch

eager and artful advances. That he might, therefore, carry on the approaches in the ſame cautious manner, he gradually ſhook off the trammels of ſobriety, gave a looſe to that ſpirit of freedom, which good liquor commonly inſpires, and in the familiarity of drunkneſs, owned himſelf head of a noble family of Poland, from which he had been obliged to abſent himſelf on account of an affair of honour, not yet compromiſed.

Having made this confeſſion, and laid ſtrong injunctions of ſecrecy upon ſir Stentor, his countenance ſeemed to acquire from every ſucceeding glaſs, a new ſymptom of intoxication; they renewed their embraces, ſwore eternal friendſhip from that day, and ſwallowed freſh bumpers, till both being in all appearance, quite overpowered, they began to yawn in concert, and even nod in their chairs. The knight ſeemed to reſent the attempts to interrupt their entertainment; he curſed his own propenſity to ſleep, imputing it to the damned French climate, and propoſed to engage in ſome paſtime that would keep them awake. 'Odd's 'fleſh! cried the Briton, when I'm at home, I defy 'all the devils in hell to faſten my eye-lids together, if 'ſo be as I am otherwiſe inclined. For there's mo-'ther and ſiſter Nan, and brother Numps and I, con-'tinue to divert ourſelves at all-fours, brag, cribbidge, 'tetotum, huſsle-cap, and chuckvarthing; and thof I 'ſay it, that ſhould n't ſay it, I won't turn back to 'e'er a he in England, at any of theſe paſtimes; and 'ſo, count, if you are ſo diſpoſed, I am your man, 'that is in the way of friendſhip, at which of theſe 'you ſhall pleaſe to pitch upon.'

To this propoſal Fathom replied, he was quite ignorant of all the games he had mentioned; but, in order to amuſe Sir Stentor, he would play with him at lanſquenet, for a trifle, as he had laid it down for a maxim, to riſk nothing conſiderable at play. 'Waunds anſwered the knight, I hope you don't 'think I come here in queſt of money. Thank God 'I have

'I have a good landed eſtate worth five thouſand a year, and owe no man a halfpenny; and I queſtion whether there be many counts in your nation, no offence, I hope, that can ſay a bolder word. As for your lambſbin net, I know nothing of the matter; but I will toſs up with you for a guinea, croſs or pile as the ſaying is; or if there's ſuch a thing in this country as a box and dice, I love to hear the bones rattle ſometimes.'

Fathom found ſome difficulty in concealing his joy at the mention of this laſt amuſement, which had been one of his chief ſtudies, and in which he had made ſuch progreſs, that he could calculate all the chances with the utmoſt exactneſs and certainty. However, he made ſhift to contain himſelf within due bounds, and with ſeeming indifference, conſented to paſs away an hour at hazard, provided the implements could be procured. Accordingly, the landlord was conſulted, and their deſire gratified; the dice were produced, and the table reſounded with the effects of their mutual eagerneſs. Fortune at firſt declared for the Engliſhman, who was permitted by our adventurer to win twenty broad pieces; and he was ſo elated with his ſucceſs, as to accompany every luckly throw with a loud burſt of laughter, and other ſavage and ſimple manifeſtations of exceſſive joy, exclaiming in a tone ſomething leſs ſweet than the bellowing of a bull: 'Now for the main, count, —odd! here they come—here are the ſeven black ſtars, i' faith. Come along my yellow-boys—odd's heart! I never liked the face of Lewis before.'

Fathom drew happy preſages from theſe boyiſh raptures; and after having indulged them for ſome time, began to avail himſelf of his arithmetic, in conſequence of which the knight was obliged to refund the greateſt part of his winning: then he altered his note, and became as intemperate in his chargin, as he had been before immoderate in his mirth. He curſed himſelf and his whole generation, damned

his bad luck, ſtamped with his feet upon the floor and challenged Ferdinand to double ſtakes. This was a very welcome propoſal to our hero, who found Sir Stentor juſt ſuch a ſubject as he had long deſired to encounter with; the more the Engliſhman laid, the more he loſt, and Fathom took care to inflame his paſſions by certain well-timed ſarcaſms upon his want of judgment, till at length he became quite outrageous, ſwore the dice were falſe, and threw them out at the window; pulled off his periwig, and committed it to the flames, ſpoke with the moſt rancorous contempt of his adverſary's ſkill, inſiſted upon his having ſtripped many a better man, for all he was a count, and threatening that before they parted, he ſhould not only look like a pole, but alſo ſmell like a pole-cat.

This was a ſpirit which our adventurer induſtriouſly kept up, obſerving that the Engliſh were dupes to all the world; and that in point of genius and addreſs, they were no more than noiſy braggadocios. In ſhort, another pair of dice was procured; the ſtakes were again raiſed, and after ſeveral viciſſitudes, fortune declared ſo much in favour of the knight, that Fathom loſt all the money in his pocket, amounting to a pretty conſiderable ſum. By this time, he was warmed into uncommon eagerneſs and impatience; being equally piqued at the ſucceſs and provoking exultations of his antagoniſt, whom he now invited to his lodgings, in order to decide the conteſt; Sir Stentor complied with his requeſt; the diſpute was renewed with various ſucceſs, till towards day-light, Ferdinand ſaw this noiſy, raw, unexperienced ſimpleton, carry off all his ready caſh, together with his jewels, and almoſt every thing that was valuable about his perſon; and to crown the whole, the victor at parting, told him with a moſt intolerable ſneer, that ſo ſoon as the count ſhould receive another remittance from Poland, he would give him his revenge.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXV.

He bears his fate like a philoſopher; and contracts acquaintance with a very remarkable perſonage.

THIS was a proper ſubject for our hero to moralize upon; and accordingly, it did not paſs without his remarks. He found himſelf fairly foiled at his own weapons, reduced to indigence in a foreign land, and, what he chiefly regretted, robbed of all thoſe gay expectations he had indulged from his own ſuppoſed excellence in the wiles of fraud; for upon a little recollection, he plainly perceived he had fallen a ſacrifice to the confederacy he had refuſed to join; and did not at all doubt that the dice were loaded for his deſtruction: but inſtead of beating his head againſt the wall, tearing his hair, imprecating vain curſes upon himſelf, or betraying other frantic ſymptoms of deſpair, he reſolved to acommodate himſelf to his fate, and profit by the leſſon he had ſo dearly bought.

With this intention, he immediately diſmiſſed his valet, quitted his lodgings, retired to an obſcure ſtreet on the other ſide of the river, and covering one eye with a large patch of black ſilk, preſented himſelf in quality of a muſician to the director of the opera, who upon hearing a trial of his ſkill, received him into the band without further queſtion. While he continued in this ſituation, he not only improved his taſte and execution in muſic, but likewiſe found frequent opportunities to extend his knowledge of mankind; for, beſides the employment he exerciſed in public, he was often concerned in private concerts that were given in the hotels of noblemen; by which means he became more and more acquainted with the perſons, manners and characters of high life, which he contemplated with the moſt induſtrious attention; as a ſpectator, who being altogether unconcerned in the performance, is at more liberty to obſerve and enjoy the particulars of the entertainment.

It was in one of thoſe aſſemblies he had the pleaſure of ſeeing his friend Sir Stentor dreſſed in the moſt faſhionable manner, and behaving with all overſtrained politeſſe of a native Frenchman: he was accompanied by his brother knight and the abbé; and this triumvirate, even in Fathom's hearing, gave a moſt ludicrous detail of the fineſſe they had practiſed upon the Poliſh count, to their entertainer, who was ambaſſador from a certain court, and made himſelf extremely merry with the particulars of the relation. Indeed, they made ſhift to deſcribe ſome of the circumſtances in ſuch a ridiculous light, that our adventurer himſelf, ſmarting as he was with the diſgrace, could not help laughing in ſecret at the account. He afterwards made it his buſineſs to enquire into the character of the two Britiſh knights, and underſtood they were notorious ſharpers, who had come abroad for the good of their country, and now hunted in couple among a French pack that diſperſed themſelves through the public ordinaries, walks and ſpectacles, in order to make a prey of incautious ſtrangers.

The pride of Ferdinand was piqued at this information: and he was even animated with the deſire of making repriſals upon this fraternity, from which he ardently longed to retrieve his honour and effects: but the iſſue of his laſt adventure had reinforced his caution; and for the preſent, he found means to ſuppreſs the dictates of his avarice and ambition, reſolving to employ his whole penetration in reconnoitring the ground, before he ſhould venture to take the field again. He therefore continued to act the part of a one-eyed fidler, under the name of Fadini, and lived with incredible frugality, that he might ſave a purſe for his future operations. In this manner had he proceeded for the ſpace of ten months, during which he acquired a competent knowledge of the city of Paris, when his curioſity was attracted by certain peculiarities in the appearance of a man, who lived in one

one of the upper apartments belonging to the house, in which he himself had fixed his habitation

This was a tall, thin, meagre figure, with a long black beard, an aquiline nose, a brown complexion, and a most piercing vivacity in his eyes: he seemed to be about the age of fifty, wore the Persian habit, and there was a remarkable severity in his aspect and demeanour. He and our adventurer had been fellow-lodgers for some time, and, according to the laudable custom of these days, had hitherto remained as much estranged to one another as if they had lived on opposite sides of the globe; but of late, the Persian seemed to regard our hero with particular attention. When they chanced to meet on the stair-case, or elsewhere, he bowed to Ferdinand with great solemnity, and complimented him with the pas: he even proceeded, in the course of this communication, to open his mouth, and salute him with a good-morrow; and sometimes made the common remarks upon the weather. Fathom, who was naturally complaisant, did not discourage these advances: on the contrary, he behaved to him with marks of particular respect; and one day desired the favour of his company to breakfast.

This invitation the stranger declined with due acknowledgment, on pretence of being out of order; and in the mean time our adventurer bethought himself of questioning the landlord concerning his outlandish guest. His curiosity was rather inflamed than satisfied with the information he could obtain from this quarter; for all he learned was, that the Persian went by the name of Ali Beker, and that he had lived in the house for the space of four months, in a most solitary and parsimonious manner, without being visited by one living soul; that, for some time after his arrival, he had been often heard to groan dismally in the night, and even to exclaim in an unknown language, as if he had laboured under some grievous affliction; and though the first transports of his grief

had ſubſided, it was eaſy to perceive he ſtill indulged a deep rooted melancholy, for the tears were frequently obſerved to trickle down his beard. The commiſſaire of the quarter had at firſt ordered this oriental to be watched in his out-goings, according to the maxims of the French police; but his life was found ſo regular and inoffenſive, that this precaution was ſoon ſet aſide.

Any man of humane ſentiments, from the knowledge of theſe particulars, would have been prompted to offer his ſervices to the forlorn ſtranger: but as our hero was devoid of all theſe infirmities of human nature, it was neceſſary that other motives ſhould produce the ſame effect: his curioſity, therefore, joined with the hopes of converting the confidence of Ali to his own emolument, effectually impelled him towards his acquaintance, and in a little time they began to reliſh the converſation of each other: for, as the reader may have already obſerved, Fathom poſſeſſed all the arts of inſinuation; and had diſcernment enough to perceive an air of dignity in the Perſian, which the humility of his circumſtances could not conceal. He was moreover a man of good underſtanding, not without a tincture of letters, perfectly well-bred, though in a ceremonious ſtile, extremely moral in his diſcourſe, and ſcrupulouſly nice in his notions of honour.

Our hero conformed himſelf in all reſpects to the other's opinions, and manag d his diſcretion ſo as to paſs upon him for a gentleman, reduced by misfortunes to the exerciſe of an employment which was altogether unſuitable to his birth and quality. He made earneſt and repeated tenders of his good offices to the ſtranger, and preſſed him to make uſe of his purſe, with ſuch cordial perſeverance, that at length Ali's reſerve was overcome, and he condeſcended to borrow of him a ſmall ſum, which, in all probability, ſaved his life; for he had been driven to the utmoſt

moſt extremity of want before he would accept of this aſſiſtance.

Fathom, having gradually ſtole into his good graces, began to take notice of many piteous ſighs that eſcaped him, in the moments of their intercourſe, and ſeemed to denote an heart fraught with woe; and on pretence of adminiſtring conſolation and counſel, begged leave to know the cauſe of his diſtreſs; obſerving, that his mind would be diſburthened by ſuch communication, and perhaps his grief alleviated by ſome means which they might jointly concert and execute in his behalf.

Ali, thus ſolicited, would often ſhake his head, with marks of extreme ſorrow and deſpondence; and while the tears guſhed from his eyes, declared that his diſtreſs was beyond the power of any remedy but death; and that by making our hero his confident, he ſhould only extend his unhappineſs to a friend, without feeling the leaſt remiſſion of his own torture. Notwithſtanding theſe repeated declarations, Ferdinand, who was well enough acquainted with the mind of man to know that ſuch importunity is ſeldom or never diſagreeable, redoubled his inſtances, together with his expreſſions of ſympathy and eſteem, until the ſtranger was prevailed upon to gratify his curioſity and benevolence. Having therefore ſecured the chamber-door one night, while all the reſt of the family were aſleep, the unfortunate Hali diſcloſed himſelf in theſe words.

CHAP. XXVI.

The hiſtory of the noble Caſtilian.

'I Should be ungrateful, as well as unwiſe, did I 'longer reſiſt the deſire you expreſs to know the 'particulars of that deſtiny which hath driven me to 'this miſerable diſguiſe, and rendered me in all con'ſiderations the moſt wretched of men. I have felt 'your friendſhip, am confident of your honour;

'and though my misfortunes are such as can never 'be repaired, because I am utterly cut off from hope, 'which is the wretch's last comfort, yet I may, by 'your means, be enabled to bear them with some 'degree of fortitude and resignation.

'Know then, my name is not Hali; neither am I 'of Persian extraction. I had once the honour to 'own myself a Castilian, and was, under the appel-'lation of Don Diego de Zelos, respected as the 'head of one of the most ancient families of that 'kingdom. Judge then how severe that distress must 'be, which compels a Spaniard to renounce his 'country, his honours, and his name. My youth 'was not spent in inglorious ease, neither did it 'waste unheeded in the rolls of fame: before I had 'attained the age of nineteen, I was twice wounded 'in battle: I once fortunately recovered the stan-'dard of the regiment to which I belonged, after it 'had been seized by the enemy; and at another oc-'casion made shift to save the life of my colonel, 'when he lay at the mercy of an enraged barbarian.

'He that thinks I recapitulate these particulars 'out of ostentation, does wrong to the unhappy Don 'Diego de Zelos, who, in having performed these 'little acts of gallantry, thinks he has done nothing, 'but simply approved himself worthy of being cal-'led a Castilian. I mean only to do justice to my 'own character, and to make you acquainted with 'one of the most remarkable incidents of my life. 'It was my fate, during my third campaign, to 'command a troop of horse in the regiment of Don 'Gonzales Orgullo, between whom and my father 'a family-feud had long been maintained with great 'enmity; and that gentleman did not leave me 'without reason to believe he rejoiced at the oppor-'tunity of exercising his resentment upon his adver-'sary's son; for he with-held from me that counte-'nance which my fellow officers enjoyed, and found 'means to subject me to divers mortifications, of

'which

'which I was not at liberty to complain. These I 'bore in silence for some time, as part of my pro- 'bation in the character of a soldier; resolved never- 'theless to employ my interest at court for a removal 'into another corps, and to take some future oppor- 'tunity of explaining my sentiments to Don Gonzales 'upon the injustice of his behaviour.

'While I animated myself with these sentiments 'against the discouragements I underwent, and the 'hard duty to which I was daily exposed, it was our 'fate to be concerned in the battle of Saragossa, 'where our regiment was so severely handled by the 'English infantry, that it was forced to give ground 'with the loss of one half of its officers and men. 'Don Gonzales, who acted as brigadier in another 'wing, being informed of our fate, and dreading the 'disgrace of his corps, which had never turned back 'to the enemy, put spurs to his horse, and, riding 'across the field at full speed, rallied our broken 'squadrons, and led us back to the charge with such 'intrepidity of behaviour, as did not fail to inspire 'us all with uncommon courage and alacrity: for 'my own part, I thought myself doubly interested 'to distinguish my valour, not only on account of 'my own glory, but likewise on the supposition 'that, as I was acting under the eye of Gonzales, 'my conduct would be narrowly observed.

'I therefore exerted myself with unusual vigour; 'and as he began the attack with the remains of my 'troop, fought close by his side during the rest of 'the engagement. I even acquired his applause in 'the very heat of battle: when his hat was struck 'off, and his horse fell under him, I accommodated 'and remounted him upon my own, and having 'seized for my own use another that belonged to a 'common trooper, attended this stern commander 'as before, and seconded him in all his repeated 'efforts: but it was impossible to withstand the 'numbers and impetuosity of the foe; and Don

'Gonzales

'Gonzales having had the mortification to ſee his 'regiment cut in pieces, and the greateſt part of the 'army routed, was fain to yield to the fortune of 'the day: yet he retired as became a man of honour 'and a Caſtilian; that is, he marched off with great 'deliberation in the rear of the Spaniſh troops, and 'frequently faced about to check the purſuit of the 'enemy. Indeed this exerciſe of his courage had well 'nigh coſt him his life; for in one of theſe wheel-'ings he was left almoſt alone, and a ſmall party of 'the Portugueſe horſe had actually cut off our com-'munication with the retreating forces of Spain.

'In this dilemma, we had no other chance of ſav-'ing our lives and liberty than that of opening a paſ-'ſage ſword in hand; and this was what Gonzales in-'ſtantly reſolved to attempt. We accordingly re-'commended our ſouls to God, and charging the 'line abreaſt of another, bore down all oppoſition, 'and were in a fair way of accompliſhing our retreat 'without further danger; but the gallant Orgullo, 'in croſſing a ditch, had the misfortune to be thrown 'from his horſe, and was almoſt the ſame inſtant 'overtaken by one of the Purtugueſe dragoons, whoſe 'ſword was already ſuſpended over his head, as he 'lay half-ſtunned with his fall; when I rode up, diſ-'charged a piſtol in the ruffian's brain, and ſeating 'my colonel on his horſe, had the good fortune to 'conduct him to a place of ſafety.

'Here he was provided with ſuch accommodation 'as his caſe required; for he had been wounded in 'the battle, and dangerouſly bruiſed by his fall; and 'when all the neceſſary ſteps were taken towards his 'recovery, I deſired to know if he had any further 'commands for his ſervice, being reſolved to join 'the army without delay, I thought proper to com-'municate this queſtion by meſſage, becauſe he had 'not ſpoke one word to me during our retreat, not-'withſtanding the good office he had received at my 'hands; a reſerve which I attributed to his pride,

'and

' and resented accordingly. He no sooner understood ' my intention than he desired to see me in his apart- ' ment, and, as near as I can remember, spoke to ' this effect:

" Were your father Don Alonzo alive, I should " now, in consequence of your behaviour, banish " every suggestion of resentment, and solicit his " friendship with great sincerity. Yes, Don Diego, " your virtue hath triumphed over that enmity. I " bore your house, and I upbraid myself with the " ungenerous treatment you have suffered under my " command. But it is not enough for me to with- " draw that rigour which it was unjust to exercise, " and would be wicked to maintain: I must like- " wise atone for the injuries you have sustained, and " make some suitable acknowledgment for that life " which I have twice to-day owed to your valour " and generosity. Whatever interest I have at court " shall be employed in your behalf; and I have " other designs in your favour, which shall be dis- " closed in due season. Mean while I desire you " will still add one obligation to the debt which I " have already incurred, and carry this billet in per- " son to my Estifania, who, from the news of this " fatal overthrow, must be in despair upon my ac- " count."

' So saying, he presented a letter, directed to his ' lady, which I received in a transport of joy, with ' expressions suitable to the occasion, and immedi- ' ately set out for his country-house, which happened ' to be about thirty leagues from the spot. This ex- ' pedition was equally glorious and interresting: for ' my thoughts upon the road were engrossed by the ' hope of seeing Don Orgullo's daughter and heiress ' Antonia, who was reported to be a young lady ' of great beauty and the most amiable accomplish- ' ments. However ridiculous it may seem for a man ' to conceive a passion for an object which he hath ' never beheld, certain it is my sentiments were so

' much

'much prepoſſeſſed by the fame of her qualifications, 'that I muſt have fallen a victim to her charms, had 'they been much leſs powerful than they were. 'Notwithſtanding the fatigues I had undergone in 'the field, I cloſed not an eye until I arrived at the 'gate of Gonzales, being determined to precede the 'report of the battle, that madam d'Orgullo might 'not be alarmed for the life of her huſband.

'I declared my errand, and was introduced into 'a ſaloon, where I had not waited above three mi-'nutes when my colonel's lady appeared, and in 'great confuſion received the letter, exclaiming, "Heaven grant that Don Gonzales be well!" In 'reading the contents ſhe underwent a variety of 'agitations; but when ſhe had peruſed the whole, 'her countenance regained its ſerenity, and regard-'ing me with an air of ineffable complacency, "Don "Diego," ſaid ſhe, "while I lament the national "calamity in the defeat of our army, I at the ſame "time feel the moſt ſincere pleaſure in ſeeing you "upon this occaſion, and according to the directions "of my dear lord, bid you heartily welcome to "this houſe, as his preſerver and friend. I was not "unacquainted with your character before this laſt "triumph of your virtue, and have often prayed to "heaven for ſome lucky determination of that fatal "quarrel which raged ſo long between the family "of Gonzales and your father's houſe. My prayers "have been heard; the long-wiſhed for reconcilia-"tion is now effected; and I hope nothing will ever "intervene to diſturb this happy union."

'To this polite and affectionate declaration I made 'ſuch a reply as became a young man, whoſe heart 'overflowed with joy and benevolence; and deſired 'to know how ſoon her anſwer to my commander 'would be ready, that I might gratify his impatience 'with all poſſible diſpatch. After having thanked 'me for this freſh proof of my attachment, ſhe beg-'ged I would retire into a chamber, and repoſe

'myſelf

' myſelf from the uncommon fatigues I muſt have
' undergone; but finding I perſiſted in the reſolution
' of returning to Don Gonzales, without allowing
' myſelf the leaſt benefit of ſleep, ſhe left me engaged
' in converſation with an uncle of Don Gonzales,
' who lodged in the houſe, and gave orders that a
' collation ſhould be prepared in another apartment,
' while ſhe retired to her cloſet, and wrote a letter
' to her huſband.

' In leſs than an hour from my firſt arrival, I was
' introduced into a moſt elegant dining-room, where
' a magnificent entertainment was ſerved up, and
' where we were joined by Donna Eſtifania, and her
' beautiful daughter the fair Antonia, who, advanc-
' ing with the moſt amiable ſweetneſs, thanked me
' in very warm expreſſions of acknowledgment for
' the generoſity of my conduct towards her father.
' I had been raviſhed with her firſt appearance,
' which far exceeded my imagination, and my facul-
' ties were ſo diſordered by this addreſs, that I an-
' ſwered her compliment with the moſt aukward
' confuſion. But this diſorder did not turn to my
' prejudice in the opinion of that lovely creature,
' who has often told me in the ſequel that ſhe gave
' herſelf credit for that perplexity in my behaviour,
' and that I never appeared more worthy of her re-
' gard and affection than at that juncture, when my
' dreſs was diſcompoſed, and my whole perſon diſ-
' figured by the toils and duty of the preceding day;
' for this very diſhabile preſented itſelf to her reflec-
' tion, as the immediate effect of that very merit by
' which I was intitled to her eſteem.

' Wretch that I am! to ſurvive the loſs of ſuch an
' excellent woman, endeared to my remembrance
' by the moſt tender offices of wedlock, happily ex-
' erciſed for the ſpace of five-and-twenty years!—
' Forgive theſe tears, they are not the drops of weak-
' neſs, but remorſe. Not to trouble you with idle
' particulars, ſuffice it to ſay, I was favoured with

' ſuch

'ſuch marks of diſtiction by madam d'Orgullo, that 'ſhe thought it incumbent upon her to let me know 'ſhe had not over-acted her hoſpitality, and while 'we ſat at table accoſted me in theſe words: "You "will not be ſurprized, Don Diego, at my expreſ- "ſions of regard, which I own are unuſual from a "Spaniſh lady to a young cavalier like you, when I "communicate the contents of this letter from Don "Gonzales." So ſaying, ſhe put the billet into my 'hand, and I read theſe words, or words to this 'effect.:

"Amiable Eſtifania,

"You will underſtand, that I am as well as a per- "ſon can poſſibly be, who hath this day lived to ſee "the army of his king defeated. If you would "know the particulars of this unfortunate action, "your curioſity will be gratified by the bearer Don "Diego de Zelos, to whoſe virtue and bravery I am "twice indebted for my life. I therefore deſire you "will receive him with that reſpect and gratitude "which you ſhall think due for ſuch an obligation; "and in entertaining him, diſmiſs that reſerve which "often diſgraces the Spaniſh hoſpitality. In a word, "let your own virtue and beneficence conduct you "upon this occaſion; and let my Antonia's endea- "vours be joined with your own, in doing honour "to the preſerver of her father. Adieu."

'Such a teſtimonial could not fail of being very 'agreeable to a young ſoldier, who by this time had 'begun to indulge the tranſporting hope of being 'happy in the arms of the adorable Antonia. I pro- 'feſſed myſelf extremely happy in having met with 'an opportunity of acquiring ſuch a degree of my 'colonel's eſteem, entertained them with a detail of 'proweſs in the battle, and anſwered all their queſ- 'tions with that moderation which every man ought 'to preſerve in ſpeaking of his own behaviour. Our

'repaſt

'repaſt being ended, I took my leave of the ladies, 'and at parting received a letter from Donna Eſti-'fania to her huſband, together with a ring of great 'value, which ſhe begged I would accept as a token 'of her eſteem. Thus loaded with honour and ca-'reſſes, I ſet out on my return for the quarters of 'Don Gonzales, who could ſcarce credit his own 'eyes when I delivered his lady's billet; for he 'thought it impoſſible to perform ſuch a journey in 'ſo ſhort a time.

'When he had glanced over the paper, "Don "Diego," ſaid he, "by your ſhort ſtay one would "imagine you had met with indifferent reception at "my houſe: I hope Eſtifania has not been deficient "in her duty." I anſwered this queſtion, by aſſur-'ing him my entertainment had been ſo agreeable in 'in all reſpects, that nothing but my duty to him 'could have induced me to give it up ſo ſoon. He 'then turned the converſation upon Antonia, and 'hinted his intention of giving her in marriage to a 'young cavalier, for whom he had a particular friend-'ſhip. I was ſo much affected by this inſinuation, 'which ſeemed at once to blaſt all my hopes of love 'and happineſs, that the blood forſook my face; I 'was ſeized with an univerſal trepidation, and even 'obliged to retire, on pretence of being ſuddenly 'taken ill.

'Though Gonzales ſeemed to impute this diſorder 'to fatigue and want of reſt, he in his heart aſcribed 'it to the true cauſe; and after having ſounded my 'ſentiments to his own ſatisfaction, bleſſed me with 'a declaration, importing, that I was the perſon 'upon whom he had pitched for a ſon-in-law. I 'will not trouble you with a repetition of what paſſed 'on this intereſting occaſion, but proceed to obſerve, 'that his intention in my favour was far from be-'ing diſagreeable to his lady; and that in a little 'time I had the good fortune to eſpouſe the charm-

'ing

'ing Antonia, who submitted to the will of her father 'without reluctance.

'Soon after this happy event, I was, by the influ- 'ence of Don Gonzales, joined to my own interest, 'promoted to the command of a regiment, and ser- 'ved with honour during the remaining part of the 'war. After the treaty of Utrecht, I was employed 'in reducing the Catalans to their allegiance, and in 'an action with those obstinate rebels, I had the mis- 'fortune to lose my father-in-law, who by that time 'was preferred to the rank of a major-general. The 'virtuous Estifania did not long survive this melan- 'choly accident; and the loss of these indulgent pa- 'rents made such a deep impression upon the tender 'heart of my Antonia, that I took the first opportunity 'of removing her from a place in which every object 'served to cherish her grief, to a pleasant villa near 'the city of Seville, which I purchased on account 'of its agreeable situation. That I might the more 'perfectly enjoy the possession of my amiable partner, 'who could no longer brook the thoughts of another 'separation, peace was no sooner established, than I 'obtained leave to resign my commission, and I 'wholly devoted myself to the joys of a domestic 'life.

'Heaven seemed to smile upon our union, by bless- 'ing us with a son, whom, however, it was pleased to 'recal in his infancy, to our unspeakable grief and 'mortification; but our mutual chagrin was after- 'wards alleviated by the birth of a daughter, who 'seemed born with every accomplishment to excite 'the love and admiration of mankind. Why did 'nature debase such a master-piece with the mixture 'of an allay, which hath involved herself and her 'whole family in perdition! But the ways of pro- 'vidence are unsearchable. She hath paid the debt 'of her degeneracy; peace be with her soul! the 'honour of my family is vindicated, though by a 'sacrifice which hath robbed me of every thing else

'that

'that is valuable in life, and ruined my peace paſt 'all redemption. Yes, my friend, all the tortures 'that human tyranny can inflict, would be eaſe, tran-'quility and delight, to the unſpeakable pangs and 'horrors I have felt.

'But to return from this digreſſion: Seraſina, 'which was the name of that little darling, as ſhe 'grew up, not only diſcloſed all the natural graces of 'external beauty, but likewiſe manifeſted the moſt 'engaging ſweetneſs of diſpoſition, and a capacity for 'acquiring with eaſe all the accompliſhments of her 'ſex. 'Tis impoſſible to convey any adequate idea 'of a parent's raptures in the contemplation of ſuch 'a fair bloſſom: ſhe was the only pledge of our 'love; ſhe was preſumptive heireſs to a large for-'tune, and likely to be the ſole repreſentative of two 'noble Caſtilian families. She was the delight of all 'who ſaw her, and a theme of praiſe for every 'tongue. You are not to ſuppoſe that the education 'of ſuch a child was neglected. Indeed it wholly 'engroſſed the attention of me and my Antonia, and 'her proficiency rewarded our care. Before ſhe had 'attained the age of fifteen, ſhe was miſtreſs of 'every elegant qualification, natural and acquired. 'Her perſon was by that time the confeſſed pattern 'of beauty. Her voice was enchantingly ſweet; 'and ſhe touched the lute with the moſt raviſhing 'dexterity. Heaven and earth! how did my heart 'dilate with joy at the thoughts of having given 'birth to ſuch perfection! how did my heart guſh 'with paternal fondneſs, whenever I beheld this or-'nament of my name! and what ſcenes of endearing 'tranſport have I enjoyed with my Antonia, in mu-'tual congratulation upon our parental happineſs.

'Seraſina, accompliſhed as ſhe was, could not fail 'to make conqueſts among the Spaniſh cavaliers, 'who are famous for ſenſibility in love. Indeed, ſhe 'never appeared without a numerous train of admir-'ers; and though we had bred her up in that freedom

'of

'of converſation and intercourſe, which holds a mid-
'dle ſpace between the French licenſe and Spaniſh re-
'ſtraint, ſhe was now ſo much expoſed to the ad-
'dreſſes of promiſcuous gallantry, that we found it
'neceſſary to retrench the liberty of our houſe, and
'behave to our male viſitants with great reſerve and
'circumſpection, that our honour and peace might
'run no riſque from the youth and inexperience of
'our daughter.

'This caution produced overtures from a great
'many young gentlemen of rank and diſtinction,
'who courted my alliance, by demanding Serafina in
'marriage; and from the number I had actually ſe-
'lected one perſon, who was in all reſpects worthy
'the poſſeſſion of ſuch an inеſtimable prize. His
'name was Don Manuel de Mendoza; his birth was
'noble, and his character dignified with repeated acts
'of generoſity and virtue. Yet, before I would ſig-
'nify to him my approbation of his ſuit, I reſolved
'to inform myſelf whether or not the heart of Seraſi-
'na was totally unengaged, and indifferent to any
'other object, that I might not lay a tyrannical re-
'ſtraint upon her inclinations. The reſult of my
'enquiry was a full conviction of her having hitherto
'been deaf to the voice of love; and this piece of in-
'formation, together with my own ſentiments in his
'favour, I communicated to Don Manuel, who heard
'theſe tidings with tranſports of gratitude and joy.
'He was immediately favoured with opportunities of
'acquiring the affection of my daughter, and his en-
'deavours were at firſt received with ſuch reſpectful
'civility, as might have been eaſily warmed into a
'mutual paſſion, had not the evil genius of our fa-
'mily interpoſed.

'O my friend! how ſhall I deſcribe the depravity
'of that unhappy virgin's ſentiments! how recount
'the particulars of my own diſhonour! I, that am
'deſcended from a long line of illuſtrious Caſtilians,
'who never received an injury they did not revenge,

'but

'but washed away every blemish in their fame with 'the blood of those who attempted to stain it! In 'that circumstance, I have imitated the example of 'my glorious progenitors; and that consideration 'alone hath supported me against all the assaults of 'despair.

'As I grudged no pains and expence in perfecting 'the education of Serafina, my doors were open to 'every person who made an extraordinary figure in 'the profession of those amusing sciences in which she 'delighted. The house of Don Diego de Zelos was 'a little academy for painting, poetry, and music; 'and heaven decreed that it should fall a sacrifice to 'its regard for these fatal and delusive arts. Among 'other preceptors, it was her fate to be under the in'struction of a cursed German, who, though his pro'fession was drawing, understood the elements and 'theory of music, possessed a large fund of learning 'and taste, and was a person remarkable for his 'agreeable conversation. This traitor, who like you 'had lost one eye, I not only admitted into my 'house for the improvement of my daughter, but 'even distinguished with particular marks of confi'dence and favour, little thinking he had either in'clination or capacity to debauch the sentiments of 'my child. I was rejoiced beyond measure to see 'with what alacrity she received his lessons, with 'what avidity she listened to his discourse, which was 'always equally moral, instructing, and entertain'ing.

'Antonia seemed to vie with me in expressions of 'regard for this accomplished stranger, whom she 'could not help supposing to be a person of rank 'and family, reduced to his present situation by 'some unfortunate vicissitude of fate. I was disposed 'to concur with this opinion, and actually conjured 'him to make me his confidant, with such protesta'tions as left him no room to doubt my honour and 'beneficence; but he still persisted in declaring him-

'self

'ſelf the ſon of an obſcure mechanic in Bohemia; an 'origin to which ſurely no man would pretend, who 'had the leaſt claim to nobility of birth. While I 'was thus undeceived in my conjecture touching his 'birth and quality, I was confirmed in an opinion of 'his integrity and moderation, and looked upon him 'as a man of honour, in deſpite of the lowneſs of his 'pedigree. Nevertheleſs, he was at bottom a moſt 'perfidious wretch, and all this modeſty and ſelf-de-'nial were the effects of the moſt villainous diſſimu-'lation, a cloak under which he, unſuſpected, rob-'bed me of my honour and my peace.

'Not to trouble you with particulars, the recital of 'which would tear my heart-ſtrings with indignation 'and remorſe, I ſhall only obſerve, that by the power 'of his infernal inſinuation, he faſcinated the heart of 'Serafina, brought over Antonia herſelf to the inter-'eſts of his paſſion, and at once detached them both 'from their duty and religion. Heaven and earth! 'how dangerous, how irreſiſtible is the power of 'infatuation! while I remained in the midſt of this 'blind ſecurity, waiting for the nuptials of my daugh-'ter, and indulging myſelf with the vain proſpect of 'her approaching felicity, Antonia found means to 'protract the negociation of the marriage, by repre-'ſenting, that it would be pity to deprive Seraſina of 'the opportunity ſhe then had of profiting by the 'German's inſtructions; and upon that account I pre-'vailed upon Don Manuel to bridle the impatience of 'his love.

'During this interval, as I one evening enjoyed the 'cool air in my own garden, I was accoſted by an 'old duenna, who had been my nurſe, and lived in 'the family ſince the time of my childhood. "My "duty," ſaid ſhe, "will no longer permit me to "wink in ſilence at the wrongs I ſee you daily ſuffer. "Diſmiſs that German from your houſe, without de-"lay, if you reſpect the glory of your name, and the "rights of our holy religion; the ſtranger is an abo-

"minable

" minable heretic; and, grant heaven, he may not " have already poiſoned the minds of thoſe you hold " moſt dear!" I had been extremely alarmed at the beginning of this addreſs; but finding the imputation limited to the article of religion, in which, thank God, I am no bigot, I recovered my ſerenity of diſpoſition, thanked the old woman for her zeal, commended her piety, and encouraged her to perſevere in making obſervations on ſuch ſubjects as ſhould concern my honour and my quiet.

'We live in ſuch a world of wickedneſs and fraud, that a man cannot be too vigilant in his own defence: had I employed ſuch ſpies from the beginning, I ſhould in all probability have been at this day in poſſeſſion of every comfort that renders life agreeable. The duenna, thus authorized, employed her ſagacity with ſuch ſucceſs, that I had reaſon to ſuſpect the German of a deſign upon the heart of Serafina; but, as the preſumptions did not amount to conviction, I contented myſelf with exiling him from my houſe, under the pretext of having diſcovered that he was an enemy to the Catholic church; and forthwith appointed a day for the celebration of my daughter's marriage with Don Manuel de Mendoſa. I could eaſily perceive a cloud of melancholy overſpread the faces of Serafina and her mother, when I declared theſe my reſolutions; but as they made no objection to what I propoſed, I did not, at that time, enter into an explanation of the true motives that influenced my conduct. Both parties were probably afraid of ſuch expoſtulation.

'Mean while, preparations were made for the eſpouſals of Serafina; and notwithſtanding the anxiety I had undergone on account of her connection with the German, I began to think that her duty, her glory, had triumphed over all ſuch low-born conſiderations, if ever they had been entertained; becauſe ſhe, and even Antonia, ſeemed to expect the ceremony with reſignation, though the features

of both ſtill retained evident marks of concern, which I willingly imputed to the mutual proſpect of their ſeparation. This, however, was but a faithleſs calm, that ſoon, ah! too ſoon, brought forth a tempeſt which hath wrecked my hopes.

'Two days before the appointed union of Don Manuel and Serafina, I was informed by the duenna, that while ſhe accompanied Antonia's waiting-maid at church, ſhe had ſeen her receive a billet from an old woman, who, kneeling at her ſide, had conveyed it in ſuch a myſterious manner, as awakened the duenna's apprehenſions about her young lady; ſhe had therefore haſtened home to communicate this piece of intelligence, that I might have an opportunity of examining the meſſenger before ſhe ſhould have time to depoſit her truſt. I could not help ſhivering with fearful preſages upon the occaſion, and even abhorring the perſon to whoſe duty and zeal I was beholden for the intelligence, even while I endeavoured to perſuade myſelf, that the inquiry would end in the detection of ſome paultry intrigue, between the maid and her own gallant. I intercepted her in returning from church, and commanding her to follow me to a convenient place, extorted from her by dint of threats, the fatal letter, which I read to this effect.

'The whole buſineſs of my life, O divine Serafina, will be to repay that affection I have been ſo happy as to engage. With what tranſport then ſhall I obey your ſummons, in performing that enterprize which will reſcue you from the bed of a deteſted rival, and put myſelf in full poſſeſſion of a jewel which I value infinitely more than life. Yes, adorable creature, I have provided every thing for our eſcape, and at midnight will attend you in your own apartment, from whence you ſhall be conveyed into a land of liberty and peace, where you will unmoleſted enjoy the purity of that religion

'you have espoused, and in full security, bless the 'arms of your ever faithful

'ORLANDO.'

'Were you a fond parent, a tender husband and 'a noble Castilian, I should not need to mention the 'unutterable horrors that took possession of my bo-'som, when I perused this accursed letter, by which 'I learned the apostacy, disobedience, and degene-'racy of my idolized Serafina, who had overthrown 'and destroyed the whole plan of felicity which I 'had erected, and blasted all the glories of my name; 'and when the wretched messenger, terrified by my 'menaces and agitation, confessed that Antonia her-'self was privy to the guilt of her daughter, whom 'she had solemnly betrothed to that vile German, 'in the sight of heaven, and that by her connivance 'this plebeian intended, that very night, to bereave 'me of my child; I was for some moments stupified 'with grief and amazement, that gave way to an ex-'tasy of rage, which had well nigh terminated in des-'pair and distraction.

'I now tremble, and my head grows giddy with 'the remembrance of that dreadful occasion: behold 'how the drops trickle down my forehead; this 'agony is a fierce and familiar visitant, I shall banish 'it anon. I summoned my pride, my resentment, 'to my assistance; these are the cordials that support 'me against all other reflections; those were the aux-'iliaries that enabled me in the day of trial, to per-'form that sacrifice which my honour demanded, in 'a strain so loud as to drown the cries of nature, love 'and compassion. Yes, they espoused that glory 'which humanity would have betrayed, and my re-'venge was noble, though unnatural.

'My scheme was soon laid, my resolution soon 'taken; I privately confined the wretch who had 'been the industrious slave of this infamous conspi-'racy, that she might take no step to frustrate, or

'interrupt the execution of my design. Then repair-
'ing to the house of an apothecary who was devoted
'to my service, communicated my intention, which
'he durst not condemn, and could not reveal, with-
'out breaking the oath of secrecy I had imposed;
'and he furnished me with two vials of poison for
'the dismal catastrophe I had planned. Thus pro-
'vided, I, on pretence of sudden business at Seville,
'carefully avoided the dear, the wretched pair,
'whom I had devoted to death, that my heart might
'not relent, by means of those tender ideas which
'the sight of them would have infallibly inspired;
'and when day-light vanished, took my station near
'that part of the house, through which the villain
'must have entered on his hellish purpose. There I
'stood, in a state of horrid expectation, my soul
'ravaged with the different passions that assailed it,
'until the fatal moment arrived; when I perceived
'the traitor approach the window of a lower apart-
'ment, which led into that of Serafina, and gently
'lifting the casement, which was purposely left un-
'secured, insinuate half of his body into the house:
'then rushing upon him, in a transport of fury, I
'plunged my sword into his heart, crying, "Vil-
"lain! receive the reward of thy treachery and pre-
"sumption."

'The steel was so well aimed as to render a repe-
'tition of the stroke unnecessary; he uttered one
'groan, and fell breathless at my feet. Exulting
'with this first success of my revenge, I penetrated
'into the chamber where the robber of my peace
'was expected by the unhappy Serafina and her mo-
'ther, who seeing me enter with a most savage aspect
'and a sword reeking with the vengeance I had
'taken, seemed almost petrified with fear. "Be-
"hold," said I, "the blood of that base plebeian
"who made an attempt upon the honour of my
"house: your conspiracy against the unfortunate
"Don Diego de Zelos is now discovered; that pre-
'sumptuous

" ſumptuous ſlave, the favoured Orlando, is now no
" more."

' Scarce had I pronounced theſe words, when a
' loud ſcream was uttered by both the unhappy vic-
' tims. " If Orlando is ſlain," cried the infatuated
Serafina, " what have I to do with life? O my dear
" lord! my huſband, and my lover! how are our
" promiſed joys at once cut off! here ſtrike, my fa-
" ther, compleat your barbarous ſacrifice, the ſpirit
" of the murdered Orlando ſtill hovers for his wife."
' Theſe frantic exclamations, in which ſhe was joined
' by Antonia, kept up the fury of my reſentment,
' which by meekneſs and ſubmiſſion might have been
' weakened and rendered ineffectual. " Yes, hapleſs
" wretches," I replied, " ye ſhall enjoy your wiſh:
" the honour of my name requires that both ſhall
" die; yet I will not mangle the breaſt of Antonia,
" on which I have ſo often repoſed; I will not ſhed
" the blood of Zelos, nor diſfigure the beauteous
" form of Serafina, on which I have ſo often gazed
" with wonder and unſpeakable delight: here is an
" elixir, to which I truſt the conſummation of my
" revenge."

' So ſaying, I emptied the vials into ſeparate cups,
' and, preſenting one in each hand, the miſerable,
' the fair offenders, inſtantly received the deſtined
' draughts, which they drank without heſitation:
' then praying to heaven for the wretched Don
' Diego, ſunk upon the ſame couch, and expired
' without a groan. O well-contrived beverage! O
' happy compoſition, by which all the miſeries of
' life are ſo eaſily cured!

' Such was the fate of Antonia and Serafina; theſe
' hands were the inſtruments that deprived them of
' life, theſe eyes beheld them the richeſt prize that
' death had ever won. Powers ſupreme! does Don
' Diego live to make this recapitulation? I have done
' my duty; but ah! I am haunted by the furies of
' of remorſe: I am tortured with the inceſſant ſtings

'of remembrance and regret; even now the images 'of my wife and daughter preſent themſelves to my 'imagination. All the ſcenes of happineſs I have 'enjoyed as a lover, huſband, and parent, all the en- 'dearing hopes I have cheriſhed, now paſs in re- 'view before me, embitering the circumſtances of 'my inexpreſſible woe; and I conſider myſelf as a 'ſolitary outcaſt from all the comforts of ſociety. 'But, enough of theſe unmanly complaints, the 'yearnings of nature are too importunate.

'Having compleated my vengeance, I retired into 'my cloſet, and furniſhing myſelf with ſome ready 'money and jewels of conſiderable value, went into 'the ſtable, ſaddled my favourite ſteed, which I 'inſtantly mounted, and, before the tumults of my 'breaſt ſubſided, found myſelf at the town of St. 'Lucar. There I learned from inquiry, that there 'was a Dutch bark in the harbour ready to ſail; 'upon which I addreſſed myſelf to the maſter, who, 'for a ſuitable gratification was prevailed upon to 'weigh anchor that ſame night, ſo that, embarking 'without delay, I ſoon bid eternal adieu to my native 'country. It was not from reaſon and reflection 'that I took theſe meaſures for my perſonal ſafety; 'but in conſequence of an involuntary inſtinct, that 'ſeems to operate in the animal machine, while the 'faculty of thinking is ſuſpended.

'To what a dreadful reckoning was I called, 'when reaſon reſumed her function! You may be- 'lieve me, my friend, when I aſſure you, that I 'ſhould not have outlived thoſe tragedies I acted, 'had I not been reſtrained from doing violence 'upon myſelf by certain conſiderations, which no 'man of honour ought to ſet aſide. I could not 'bear the thought of falling gloriouſly by the hand 'of an executioner, and intailing diſgrace upon a 'family that knew no ſtain: and I was deterred 'from putting an end to my own miſery, by the 'apprehenſions of poſthumous cenſure, which would

have

'have repreſented me as a deſponding wretch, utterly deſtitute of that patience, fortitude, and reſignation, which are the characteriſtics of a true Caſtilian. I was alſo influenced by religious motives, that ſuggeſted to me the neceſſity of living to atone by my ſufferings and ſorrow, for the guilt I had incurred in complying with a ſavage punctilio, which is, I fear, diſpleaſing in the ſight of heaven.

'Theſe were the reaſons that oppoſed my entrance into that peaceful harbour which death preſented to my view; and they were ſoon reinforced by another principle that ſanctioned my determination to continue at the ſervile oar of life. In conſequence of unfavourable winds, our veſſel for ſome days made ſmall progreſs in her voyage to Holland, and near the coaſt of Gallicia we were joined by an Engliſh ſhip from Vigo, the maſter of which gave us to underſtand, that before he ſet ſail a courier had arrived from Madrid at that place, with orders for the corregidor to prevent the eſcape of any native Spaniard by ſea from any port within his diſtrict; and to uſe his utmoſt endeavours to apprehend the perſon of Don Diego de Zelos, who was ſuſpected of treaſonable practices againſt the ſtate. Such an order, with a minute deſcription of my perſon, was at the ſame time diſpatched to all the ſea-ports and frontier places in Spain.

'You may eaſily ſuppoſe how I, who was already overwhelmed with diſtreſs, could bear this aggravation of misfortune and diſgrace: I, who had always maintained the reputation of loyalty, which was acquired at the hazard of my life, and the expence of my blood. To deal candidly, I muſt own, that this intelligence rouſed me from a lethargy of grief, which had begun to overpower my faculties. I immediately imputed this diſhonourable charge to the evil offices of ſome villain, who had baſely taken the advantage of my deplorable ſituation, and I was inflamed, inſpirited with the

'desire of vindicating my fame, and revenging the 'injury. Thus animated, I resolved to disguise my-'self effectually from the observation of those spies 'which every nation finds its account in employing 'in foreign countries; I purchased this habit from 'the Dutch navigator, in whose house I kept myself 'concealed, after our arrival at Amsterdam, until 'my beard was grown to a sufficient length to favour 'my design, and then appeared as a Persian dealer 'in jewels. As I could gain no satisfactory infor-'mation touching myself in this country, had no 'purpose to pursue, and was extremely miserable 'among a people, who, being mercenary and un-'social, were very ill adapted to alleviate the hor-'rors of my condition; I gratified my landlord for 'his important services, with the best part of my 'effects; and having, by his means, procured a 'certificate from the magistracy, repaired to Rot-'terdam, from whence I set out in a travelling car-'riage for Antwerp, on my way to this capital; 'hoping, with a succession of different objects, to 'mitigate the anguish of my mind, and, by the 'most industrious enquiry, to learn such particulars 'of that false impeachment, as would enable me 'to take measures for my own justification, as well 'as for projecting a plan of revenge against the vile 'perfidious author.

'This, I imagined, would be no difficult task, 'considering the friendship and intercourse subsisting 'between the Spanish and French nations, and 'the communicative disposition for which the Pa-'risians are renowned; but I have found myself 'egregiously deceived in my expectation. The of-'ficers of the police in this city are so inquisitive and 'vigilant, that the most minute action of a stranger is 'scrutinized with great severity: and, although the 'inhabitants are very frank in discoursing on in-'different subjects, they are at the same time ex-'tremely cautious in avoiding all conversation that

'turns

'turns upon ſtate-occurrences, and maxims of go-
'vernment. In a word, the peculiarity of my ap-
'pearance ſubjects me ſo much to particular ob-
'ſervation, that I have hitherto thought proper to
'devour my griefs in ſilence, and even to bear the
'want of almoſt every convenience, rather than ha-
'zard a premature diſcovery, by offering my
'jewels to ſale.

'In this emergency I have been ſo far fortunate
'as to become acquainted with you, whom I look
'upon as a man of honour and humanity. Indeed,
'I was at firſt ſight prepoſſeſſed in your favour:
'for, notwithſtanding the miſtakes which men daily
'commit in judging from appearances, there is
'ſomething in the phyſiognomy of a ſtranger from
'which one cannot help forming an opinion of his
'character and diſpoſition. For once, my penetra-
'tion nath not failed me; your behaviour juſtifies
'my deciſion, you have treated me with that ſym-
'pathy and reſpect which none but the generous will
'pay to the unfortunate. I have truſted you ac-
'cordingly: I have put my life, my honour in your
'power; and I muſt beg leave to depend upon your
'friendſhip, for obtaining that ſatisfaction, for which
'alone I ſeek to live. Your employment engages
'you in the gay world; you daily mingle with the
'ſocieties of men; the domeſtics of the Spaniſh
'ambaſſador will not ſhun your acquaintance; you
'may frequent the coffee-houſes to which they re-
'ſort; and in the courſe of theſe occaſions, unſuſ-
'pected, inform yourſelf of that myſterious charge
'which lies heavy on the fame of the unfortunate
'Don Diego. I muſt likewiſe implore your aſſiſt-
'ance in converting my jewels into money, that I
'may breathe independant of man, until heaven ſhall
'permit me to finiſh this weary pilgrimage of
'life.'

CHAP. XXVII.

A flagrant inſtance of Fathom's virtue, in the manner of his retreat to England.

FATHOM, who had lent an attentive ear to every circumſtance of this diſaſtrous ſtory, no ſooner heard it concluded, than, with an aſpect of generous and cordial compaſſion, not even unattended with tears, he condoled the lamentable fate of Don Diego de Zelos; deplored the untimely death of the gentle Antonia and the fair Serafina, and undertook the intereſts of the wretched Caſtilian with ſuch warmth of ſympathizing zeal, as drew a flood from his eyes, while he wrung his benefactor's hand in a tranſport of gratitude. Thoſe were literally tears of joy, or at leaſt of ſatisfaction, on both ſides; as our hero wept with affection and attachment to the jewels that were to be committed to his care: but, far from diſcovering the true ſource of his tenderneſs, he affected to diſſuade the Spaniard from parting with the diamonds, which he counſelled him to reſerve for a more preſſing occaſion; and in the mean time earneſtly intreated him to depend upon his friendſhip for preſent relief. This generous proffer ſerved only to confirm Don Diego's reſolution, which he forthwith executed, by putting into the hands of Ferdinand jewels to the value of a thouſand crowns, and deſiring him to detain for his own uſe any part of the ſum they would raiſe. Our adventurer thanked him for the good opinion he entertained of his integrity, an opinion fully manifeſted in honouring him with ſuch important confidence, and aſſured him he would tranſact his affairs with the utmoſt diligence, caution and diſpatch. The evening being by this time almoſt conſumed, theſe new allies retired ſeparately to reſt: though each paſſed the night without repoſe, in very different reflections, the Caſtilian being, as uſual, agitated with the unceaſing

ceaſing pangs of his unalterable miſery, interſperſed with gleaming hopes of revenge; and Fathom being kept awake with revolving plans for turning his fellow-lodger's credulity to his own advantage. From the nature of the Spaniard's ſituation, he might have appropriated the jewels to himſelf, and remained in Paris without fear of a proſecution, becauſe the injured party had, by the above narrative, left his life and liberty at diſcretion. But he did not think himſelf ſecure from the perſonal reſentment of an enraged deſperate Caſtilian; and therefore determined to withdraw himſelf privately into that country where he had all along propoſed to fix the ſtandard of his fineſſe, which fortune had now impowered him to exerciſe according to his wiſh.

Bent upon this retreat, he went abroad in the morning, on pretence of acting in the concerns of his friend Don Diego, and having hired a poſt-chaiſe to be ready at the dawn of next day, returned to his lodgings, where he cajoled the Spaniard with a feigned report of his negociaiion: then, ſecuring his moſt valuable effects about his perſon, aroſe with the cock, repaired to the place at which he had appointed to meet the poſtilion with the carriage, and ſet out for England without further delay, leaving the unhappy Zelos to the horrors of indigence, and the additional agony of this freſh diſappointment. Yet he was not the only perſon affected by the abrupt departure of Fathom, which was haſtened by the importunities, threats, and reproaches of his landlord's daughter, whom he had debauched under promiſe of marriage, and now left in the fourth month of her pregnancy.

Notwithſtanding the dangerous adventure in which he had been formerly involved by travelling in the night, he did not think proper to make the uſual halts on this journey, for ſleep or refreſhment, nor did he once quit the chaiſe till his arrival at Boulogne, which he reached in twenty hours after his departure from Paris. Here he thought he might ſafely indulge

himſelf with a comfortable meal; accordingly he beſpoke a poulard for dinner, and while that was preparing, went forth to view the city and harbour. When he beheld the white cliffs of Albion, his heart throbbed with all the joy of a beloved ſon, who, after a tedious and fatiguing voyage, reviews the chimnies of his father's houſe: he ſurveyed the neighbouring coaſt of England with fond and longing eyes, like another Moſes, reconnoitring the land of Canaan from the top of Mount Piſgah: and to ſuch a degree of impatience was he inflamed by the ſight, that, inſtead of proceeding to Calais, he reſolved to take his paſſage directly from Boulogne, even if he ſhould hire a veſſel for the purpoſe. With theſe ſentiments, he inquired if there was any ſhip bound for England, and was ſo fortunate as to find the maſter of a ſmall bark, who intended to weigh anchor for Deal that ſame evening at high water.

Tranſported with this information, he immediately agreed for his paſſage, ſold the poſt-chaiſe to his landlord for thirty guineas, as a piece of furniture for which he could have no further uſe, purchaſed a portmanteau, together with ſome linen and wearing apparel, and, at the recommendation of his hoſt, took into his ſervice an extra-poſtilion or helper, who had formerly wore the livery of a travelling marquis. This new domeſtic, whoſe name was Maurice, underwent, with great applauſe, the examination of our hero, who perceived in him a fund of ſagacity and preſence of mind, by which he was excellently qualified for being the valet of an adventurer: he was therefore accommodated with a ſecond-hand ſuit, and another ſhirt, and at once liſted under the banners of count Fathom, who ſpent the whole afternoon in giving him proper inſtructions for the regulation of his conduct.

Having ſettled theſe preliminaries to his own ſatisfaction, he and his baggage were embarked about ſix o'clock, in the month of September, and it was not

without

without emotion that he found himſelf benighted upon the great deep, of which, before the preceding day, he had never enjoyed even the moſt diſtant proſpect. However, he was not a man to be afraid, where there was really no appearance of danger; and the agreeable preſages of future fortune ſupported his ſpirits, amidſt the diſagreeable nauſea which commonly attends landmen at ſea, until he was ſet aſhore upon the beach at Deal, which he entered in good health about ſeven o'clock in the morning.

Like Cæſar, however, he found ſome difficulty in landing, on account of the ſwelling ſurf, that tumbled about with ſuch violence as had almoſt overſet the cutter that carried him on ſhore; and, in his eagerneſs to jump upon the ſtrand, his foot ſlipped from the ſide of the boat, ſo that he was thrown forwards in an horizontal direction, and his hands were the firſt parts of him that touched the Engliſh ground. Upon this occaſion, he, in imitation of Scipio's behaviour on the coaſt of Africa, hailed the omen, and graſping an handful of the ſand, was heard to exclaim, in the Italian language, 'ah ha, Old England, I have thee faſt.'

As he walked up to the inn, followed by Maurice loaded with his portmanteau, he congratulated himſelf upon his happy voyage, and the peaceable poſſeſſion of his ſpoil, and could not help ſnuffing up the Britiſh air with marks of infinite reliſh and ſatisfaction. His firſt care was to recompence himſelf for the want of ſleep he had undergone, and, after he had ſufficiently recruited himſelf with ſeveral hours of uninterrupted repoſe, he ſet out in a poſt chaiſe for Canterbury, where he took a place in the London ſtage, which he was told would depart next morning, the coach being already full. On this very firſt day of his arrival, he perceived between the Engliſh and the people among whom he had hitherto lived, ſuch eſſential difference in cuſtoms, appearance, and way of living, as inſpired him with high notions of that Britiſh freedom, opulence, and convenience, on which he had often heard

his

his mother expatiate. On the road, he feaſted his eye-ſight with the verdant hills covered with flocks of ſheep, the fruitful vales parcelled out into cultivated incloſures; the very cattle ſeemed to profit by the wealth of their maſters, being large, ſturdy, and ſleek, and every peaſant breathed the inſolence of liberty and independance. In a word, he viewed the wide-extended plains of Kent with a lover's eye, and his ambition becoming romantic, could not help fancying himſelf another conqueror of the iſle.

He was not, however, long amuſed by theſe vain chimeras, which ſoon vaniſhed before other reflections of more importance and ſolidity. His imagination, it muſt be owned, was at all times too chaſte to admit thoſe over-weening hopes, which often miſlead the mind of a projector. He had ſtudied mankind with incredible diligence, and knew perfectly well how far he could depend on the paſſions and foibles of human nature. That he might now act conſiſtent with his former ſagacity, he reſolved to paſs himſelf upon his fellow-travellers for a French gentleman, equally a ſtranger to the language and country of England, in order to glean from their diſcourſe ſuch intelligence as might avail him in his future operations; and his lacquey was tutored accordingly.

CHAP. XXVIII.

Some account of his fellow-travellers.

THOSE who had taken places for the coach, underſtanding the ſixth ſeat was engaged by a foreigner, determined to profit by his ignorance; and, with that politeneſs which is peculiar to this happy iſland, fixed themſelves in the vehicle, in ſuch a manner, before he had the leaſt intimation of their deſign, that he found it barely practicable to inſinuate himſelf ſidelong between a corpulent quaker and a fat Wapping landlady, in which attitude he ſtuck faſt, like a thin quarto between two voluminous dictionaries

dictionaries on a bookſeller's ſhelf: and, as if the pain and inconvenience of ſuch compreſſion was not ſufficient matter of chagrin, the greateſt part of the company entertained themſelves with laughing at his ludicrous ſtation.

The jolly dame at his left hand obſerved, with a loud exclamation of mirth, that monſieur would be ſoon better acquainted with a buttock of Engliſh beef; and ſaid, by that time they ſhould arrive at their dining-place, he might be ſpitted without larding. 'Yes, verily,' replied Obadiah, who was a wag in his way, 'but the ſwine's fat will be all on 'one ſide.' 'So much the better for you,' cried mine hoſteſs, 'for that ſide is all your own.' The quaker was not ſo much diſconcerted by the quickneſs of this repartee, but that he anſwered with great deliberation, 'I thank thee for thy love, but will not 'profit by thy loſs; eſpecially as I like not the ſa'vour of theſe outlandiſh fowls; they are profane 'birds of paſſage, reliſhed only by the children of 'vanity, like thee.'

The plump gentlewoman took umbrage at this laſt expreſſion, which ſhe conſidered as a double reproach, and repeated the words 'Children of va'nity!' with an emphaſis of reſentment. 'I believe, 'if the truth were known,' ſaid ſhe, 'there's more 'vanity than midriff, in that great belly of yours, for 'all your pretending to humility and religion. Sir'rah! my corporation is made up of good, whole'ſome, Engliſh fat; but you are puffed up with the 'wind of vanity and deluſion; and when it begins to 'gripe your entrails, you pretend to have a motion, 'and then get up and preach nonſenſe: yet, you'll 'take it upon you to call your betters children: 'marry come up, Mr. Gooſe-cap, I have got chil'dren that are as good men as you, or any hypocri'tical trembler in England.'

A perſon who ſat oppoſite to the quaker, hearing this remonſtrance, which ſeemed pregnant with contention,

tention, interpoſed in the converſation with a conſcious leer, and begged there might be no rupture between the ſpirit and the fleſh. By this remonſtrance he relieved Obadiah from the ſatire of this female orator, and brought the whole vengeance of her elocution upon his own head. 'Fleſh,' cried ſhe, with all the ferocity of an enraged Thaleſtris, 'none of your names, Mr. Yellow-chaps. What! I 'I warrant you have an antipathy to fleſh, becauſe 'you yourſelf are nothing but ſkin and bone. I ſup-'poſe you are ſome poor ſtarv'd journeyman taylor 'come from France, where you have been learning 'to cabbage, and have not ſeen a good meal of vic-'tuals theſe ſeven years: you have been living upon 'rye-bread and ſoup-maigre, and now you come 'over like a walking atomy, with a rat's tail at your 'wig, and a tinſey jacket: and ſo, forſooth, you ſet 'up for a gentleman, and pretend to find fault with 'a ſurloin of roaſt beef!'

The gentleman heard this addreſs with admirable patience, and when ſhe had rung out her alarm, very coolly replied: 'Any thing but your ſtinking fiſh, 'madam. Since when, I pray, have you travelled 'in ſtage coaches, and left off your old profeſſion of 'crying oyſters in winter, and rotten mackarel in 'June? You was then known by the name of Kate 'Brawn, and in good repute among the ale-houſes 'in Thames-ſtreet, till that unlucky amour with the 'maſter of a corn-veſſel, in which he was unfortu-'nately detected by his own ſpouſe; but you ſeem 'to have riſen by that fall; and I wiſh you joy of 'your preſent plight: though, conſidering your edu-'cation on Bear-key, you can give but a ſorry ac-'count of yourſelf.'

The amazon, though neither exhauſted nor diſmayed, was really confounded at the temper and aſſurance of this antagoniſt, who had gathered all theſe anecdotes from the fertility of his own invention; after a ſhort pauſe, however, ſhe poured forth a torrent

rent of obloquy, ſufficient to overwhelm any perſon who had not been uſed to take up arms againſt ſuch ſeas of trouble; and a diſpute enſued, which would have not only diſgraced the beſt orators on the Thames, but even have made a figure in the celebration of the Eleuſinian myſteries, during which the Athenian matrons rallied one another from different waggons, with that freedom of altercation ſo happily preſerved in this our age and country.

Such a redundancy of epithets, and variety of metaphors, tropes, and figures, were uttered between theſe well-matched opponents, that an epic bard would have found his account in liſtening to the conteſt; which, in all probability, would not have been confined to words, had it not been interrupted for the ſake of a young woman of an agreeable countenance and modeſt carriage; who, being ſhocked at ſome of their flowers of ſpeech, and terrified by the menacing looks and geſtures of the fiery featured dame, began to ſcream aloud, and beg leave to quit the coach. Her perturbation put an end to the high debate. The ſixth paſſenger, who had not opened his mouth, endeavoured to comfort her with aſſurances of protection; the quaker propoſed a ceſſation of arms; the male diſputant acquieſced in the propoſal, aſſuring the company he had entered the liſts for their entertainment only, without acquiring the leaſt grudge or ill-will to the fat gentlewoman, whom he proteſted he had never ſeen before that day, and who, for aught he knew, was a perſon of credit and reputation. He then held forth his hand in token of amity, and aſked pardon of the offended party, who was appeaſed by his ſubmiſſion; and, in teſtimony of her benevolence, preſented to the other female, whom ſhe had diſcompoſed, an Hungary-water bottle filled with cherry-brandy, recommending it as a much more powerful remedy than the ſal volatile which the other held to her noſe.

Peace being thus re-eſtabliſhed, in a treaty, comprehending

prehending Obadiah and all preſent, it will not be improper to give the reader ſome further information touching the ſeveral characters aſſembled in this vehicle. The quaker was a London merchant, who had been at Deal ſuperintending the repairs of a ſhip which had ſuffered by a ſtorm in the Downs. The Wapping landlady was on her return from the ſame place, where ſhe had attended the payment of a man of war, with ſundry powers of attorney, granted by the ſailors, who had lived upon credit at her houſe. Her competitor in fame was a dealer in wine, a ſmuggler of French lace, and a petty gameſter juſt arrived from Paris, in the company of an Engliſh barber, who ſat on his right hand, and the young woman was daughter of a country curate, in her way to London, where ſhe was bound apprentice to a milliner.

Hitherto Fathom had ſat in ſilent aſtoniſhment at the manners of his fellow travellers, which far exceeded the notions he had pre-conceived of Engliſh plainneſs and ruſticity: he found himſelf a monument of that diſregard and contempt which a ſtranger never fails to meet with from the inhabitants of this iſland; and ſaw, with ſurprize, an agreeable young creature ſit as ſolitary and unheeded as himſelf. He was, indeed, allured by the roſes of her complexion, and the innocence of her aſpect, and began to repent of having pretended ignorance of the language, by which he was reſtrained from exerciſing his eloquence upon her heart: he reſolved, however, to ingratiate himſelf, if poſſible, by the courteſy and politeneſs of dumb ſhew, and for that purpoſe put his eyes in motion without farther delay.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXIX.

Another providential deliverance from the effects of the ſmuggler's ingenious conjecture.

DURING theſe deliberations, the wine merchant, with a view to make a parade of his ſuperior parts and breeding, as well as to pave the way for a match at backgommon, made a tender of his ſnuff-box to our adventurer, and aſked, in bad French, how he travelled from Paris. This queſtion produced a ſeries of interrogations concerning the place of Ferdinand's abode in that city, and his buſineſs in England; ſo that he was fain to practiſe the ſcience of defence, and anſwered with ſuch ambiguity, as aroused the ſuſpicion of the ſmuggler, who began to believe our hero had ſome very cogent reaſon for evading his curioſity; he immediately ſet his reflection at work, and, after various conjectures, fixed upon Fathom's being the young pretender. Big with this ſuppoſition, he eyed him with the moſt earneſt attention, comparing his features with thoſe of the chevalier's portrait, which he had ſeen in France, and though the faces were as unlike as any two human faces could be, found the reſemblance ſo ſtriking as to diſpel all his doubts, and perſuade him to introduce the ſtranger to ſome juſtice on the road: a ſtep by which he would not only manifeſt his zeal for the proteſtant ſucceſſion, but alſo acquire the ſplendid reward propoſed by parliament, to any perſon who ſhould apprehend that famous adventurer.

Theſe ideas intoxicated the brain of this man to ſuch a pitch of enthuſiaſm, that he actually believed himſelf in poſſeſſion of the thirty thouſand pounds, and amuſed his fancy with a variety of magnificent projects to be executed by means of that acquiſition; until his reverie was interrupted by the halting of the coach at the inn where the paſſengers uſed to eat their breakfaſts. Waked as he was from the dream of hap-

happineſs, it had made ſuch impreſſion upon his mind, that ſeeing Fathom riſe up with an intention to alight, he took it for granted his deſign was to eſcape, and ſeizing him by the collar, called aloud for aſſiſtance in the king's name.

Our hero, whoſe ſagacity and preſence of mind, very often ſupplied the place of courage, inſtead of being terrified at this aſſault, which might have diſturbed the tranquillity of an ordinary villain, was ſo perfectly maſter of every circumſtance of his own ſituation, as to know at once that the aggreſſor could not poſſibly have the leaſt cauſe of complaint againſt him; and therefore, imputing this violence either to madneſs or miſtake, very deliberately ſuffered himſelf to be made priſoner by the people of the houſe, who ran to the coach door, in obedience to the ſummons of the wine merchant. The reſt of the company were ſtruck dumb with ſurprize and conſternation at this ſudden adventure, and the quaker, dreading ſome fell reſiſtance on the ſide of the outlandiſh-man, unpinned the other coach-door in the twinkling of an eye, and trundled himſelf into the mud for ſafety. The others, ſeeing the temper and reſignation of the priſoner, ſoon recovered their recollection, and began to enquire into the cauſe of his arreſt: Upon which the captor, whoſe teeth chattered with terror and impatience, gave them to underſtand that he was a ſtate criminal, and demanded their help in conveying him to juſtice.

Luckily for both parties, there happened to be at the inn a company of ſquires juſt returned from the death of a leaſh of hares, which they had ordered to be dreſſed for dinner, and among theſe gentlemen was one of the quorum, to whom the accuſer had immediate recourſe, marching before the captive, who walked very peaceably between the landlord and one of his waiters, and followed by a crowd of ſpectators, ſome of whom had ſecured the faithful Maurice, who in his behaviour cloſely imitated the deliberation of his

his master. In this order did the procession advance to the apartment in which the magistrate, with his fellows of the chace, sat smoking his morning-pipe over a tankard of strong ale; and the smuggler being directed to the right person, 'May it please your worship,' said he, 'I have brought this foreigner before you, on a violent suspicion of his being a proclaimed outlaw, and I desire, before these witnesses, 'that my title may be made good to the reward that 'shall become due upon his conviction.'

'Friend,' replied the justice, 'I know nothing of 'you or your titles, but this I know, if you have 'any information to give in, you must come to my 'house when I am at home, and proceed in a lawful way, that is, d'ye mind me, if you swear as how 'this here person is an outlaw, then if so be as he 'has nothing to say to the contrary, my clerk shall 'make out a mittimus; and so to jail with him till 'next size.' 'But, sir,' answered the impeacher, 'this 'is a case that admits of no delay; the person I have 'apprehended is a prisoner of consequence to the 'state.' 'How, fellow!' cried the magistrate, interrupting him, 'is there any person of more consequence than one of his majesty's justices of the 'peace, who is besides a considerable member of the 'landed interest? D'ye know, sirrah, who you are 'talking to? If you don't go about your business, 'I believe I shall lay you by the heels.'

The smuggler, fearing his prize would escape, through the ignorance, pride, and obstinacy of this country justice, approached his worship, and in a whisper which was overheard by all the company, assured him he had indubitable reason to believe the foreigner was no other than the pretender's eldest son. At mention of this formidable name, every individual of the audience started, with signs of terror and amazement. The justice dropped his pipe, recoiled upon his chair, and, looking most ridiculuously aghast, exclaimed, 'Seize him in the name of God and his 'majesty

'majesty king George! Has he got no secret arms 'about him?'

Fathom, being thus informed of the suspicion under which he stood, could not help smiling at the eagerness with which the spectators flew upon him; and suffered himself to be searched with great composure, well knowing they would find no moveables about his person, but such as upon examination would turn to his account; he therefore very calmly presented to the magistrate his purse, and a small box that contained his jewels, and in the French language desired they might be preserved from the hands of the mob. This request was interpreted by the accuser, who, at the same time laid claim to the booty; the justice took charge of the deposit, and one of his neighbours having undertaking the office of clerk, he proceeded to the examination of the culprit, whose papers were by this time laid on the table before him. 'Stran-'ger,' said he, 'you stand charged with being son 'of the pretender to these realms; what have you to 'say in your own defence?' Our hero assured him, in the French language, that he was falsely impeached, and demanded justice on the accuser, who, without the least reason, had made such a malicious attack upon the life and honour of an innocent gentleman.

The smuggler, instead of acting the part of a faithful interpreter, told his worship, 'that the prison-'er's answer was no more than a simple denial, which 'every felon would make, who had nothing else 'to plead in his own behalf; and that this alone was 'a strong presumption of his guilt; because if he was 'not really the person they suspected him to be, the 'thing would speak for itself; for, if he was not 'the young pretender, who then was he?' This argument had great weight with the justice, who, assuming a very important aspect, observed, 'Very 'true, friend, if you are not the pretender, in the 'name of God who are you? One may see with half

'an

'an eye that he is no better than a promiſcuous fel-
'low.'

Ferdinand now began to repent of having pretend-ed ignorance of the Engliſh language, as he found himſelf at the mercy of a raſcal, who put a falſe gloſs upon all his words; and addreſſed himſelf to the au-dience ſucceſſively in French, High-Dutch, Italian, and Hungarian Latin, deſiring to know if any perſon preſent underſtood any of theſe tongues, that his an-ſwers might be honeſtly explained to the bench. But he might have accoſted them in Chineſe with the ſame ſucceſs; there was not one perſon preſent tolera-bly verſed in his mother-tongue, much leſs acquaint-ed with any foreign language, except the wine-mer-chant, who, incenſed at this appeal, which he conſi-dered as an affront to his integrity, gave the judge to underſtand, that the delinquent, inſtead of ſpeaking to the purpoſe, contumaciouſly inſulted his authority in ſundry foreign lingo's, which he apprehended was an additional proof of his being the chevalier's ſon, inaſmuch as no perſon would take the pains to learn ſuch a variety of gibberiſh, except with ſome ſiniſter intent.

This annotation was not loſt upon the ſquire, who was too jealous of the honour of his office to over-look ſuch a flagrant inſtance of contempt. His eyes gliſtened, his cheeks were inflated with rage: 'The 'caſe is plain,' ſaid he, 'having nothing of ſignifica-'tion to offer in his own favour, he grows refractory, 'and abuſes the court in his baſe Roman catholic 'jargon: but I'll let you know, for all you pretend 'to be a prince, you are no better than an outlawed 'vagrant: and I'll ſhew you what a thing you are, 'when you come in compoſition with an Engliſh 'juſtice like me, who have more than once extin-'guiſhed myſelf in the ſervice of my country. As 'nothing elſe accrues, your purſe, black box and 'papers ſhall be ſealed up before witneſſes, and ſent 'by expreſs to one of his Majeſty's ſecretaries of

'ſtate;

'ſtate; and as for yourſelf, I will apply to the mi-'litary at Canterbury, for a guard to conduct you to 'London.'

This was a very unwelcome declaration to our adventurer, who was on the point of haranguing the juſtice and ſpectators in their own language, when he was relieved from the neceſſity of taking that ſtep, by the interpoſiton of a young nobleman juſt arrived at the inn, who, being informed of this ſtrange examination, entered the court, and at firſt ſight of the priſoner, aſſured the juſtice he was impoſed upon: for that he himſelf had often ſeen the young pretender in Paris, and that there was no kind of reſemblance between that adventurer and the perſon now before him. The accuſer was not a little mortified at his lordſhip's affirmation, which met with all due regard from the bench: though the magiſtrate took notice, that granting the priſoner was not the young chevalier himſelf, it was highly probable he was an emiſſary of that houſe, as he could give no ſatisfactory account of himſelf, and was poſſeſſed of things of ſuch value as no honeſt man would expoſe to the accidents of the road.

Fathom having thus found an interpreter, who ſignified to him in the French tongue, the doubts of the juſtice, told his lordſhip that he was a gentleman of a noble houſe in Germany, who for certain reaſons had come abroad incognito, with a view to ſee the world; and that, althought the letters they had ſeized would prove the truth of that aſſertion, he ſhould be loth to expoſe his private concerns to the knowledge of ſtrangers, if he could poſſibly be releaſed without that mortification. The young nobleman explained his deſire to the court; but his own curioſity being intereſted, obſerved, at the ſame time, that the juſtice could not be ſaid to have diſcharged the duty of his ſtation, until he ſhould have examined every circumſtance relating to the priſoner; upon which remonſtrance

monſtrance he was requeſted by the bench to peruſe the papers, and accordingly communicated the ſubſtance of one letter to this effect:

'My dear ſon,

'Though I am far from approving the raſh ſtep 'you have taken in withdrawing yourſelf from your 'father's houſe, in order to avoid an engagement, 'which would have been equally honourable and 'advantageous to your family, I cannot ſo far ſup-'preſs my affection, as to bear the thought of your 'undergoing thoſe hardſhips, which for your diſo-'bedience you deſerve to ſuffer. I have therefore, 'without the knowledge of your father, ſent the 'bearer to attend you in your peregrinations; his 'fidelity you know hath been tried in a long courſe 'of ſervice, and I have entruſted to his care for your 'uſe, a purſe of two hundred ducats, and a box of 'jewels to the value of twice that ſum, which, 'though not ſufficient to ſupport an equipage ſuita-'ble to your birth, will at leaſt for ſome time pre-'ſerve you from the importunities of want. When 'you are dutiful enough to explain your deſigns and 'ſituation, you may expect further indulgence from 'your too tender and diſconſolate mother,

'The Counteſs of Fathom.'

This letter, which as well as the others, our hero had forged for the purpoſe, effectually anſwered his intent, in throwing duſt in the eyes and underſtanding of the ſpectators, who now regarded the priſoner with looks of reſpectful remorſe, as a man of quality who had been falſely accuſed: his lordſhip, to make a parade of his own politeneſs and importance, aſſured the bench he was no ſtranger to the family of the Fathoms, and with a compliment gave Ferdinand to underſtand he had formerly ſeen him at Verſailles. There being no longer room for ſuſpicion, the juſtice ordered our adventurer to be ſet at liberty, and even

invited him to be ſeated, with an apology for the rude manner in which he had been treated, owing to the miſinformation of the accuſer, who was threatened with the ſtocks for his malice and preſumption.

But this was not the only triumph our hero obtained over the wine merchant. Maurice was no ſooner unfettered, than advancing into the middle of the room, 'My lord,' ſaid he, (addreſſing himſelf in Fench to his maſter's deliverer,) 'ſince 'you have been ſo generous as to protect a noble 'ſtranger from the danger of ſuch a falſe accuſation, 'I hope you will ſtill lay an additional obligation 'upon the count, by retorting the vengeance of the 'law upon his perfidious accuſer, whom I know to 'be a trader in thoſe articles of merchandize which 'are prohibited by the ordonnances of this nation. 'I have ſeen him lately at Boulogne, and am per'fectly well acquainted with ſome perſons who have 'ſupplied him with French lace and embroidery; 'and, as a proof of what I alledge, I deſire you will 'order him and this barber, who is his underſtrap'per, to be examined on the ſpot.'

This charge, which was immediately explained to the bench, yielded extraordinary ſatisfaction to the ſpectators, one of whom, being an officer of the cuſtoms, forthwith began to exerciſe his function upon the unlucky Perruquier, who being ſtripped of his upper garments, and even of his ſhirt, appeared like the mummy of an Ægyptian king, moſt curiouſly rolled up in bandages of rich figured gold ſhalloon, that covered the ſkirts of four embroidered waiſtcoats. The merchant ſeeing his expectation ſo unhappily reverſed, made an effort to retire with a moſt rueful aſpect, but was prevented by the officer, who demanded the interpoſition of the civil power, that he might undergo the ſame examination to which the other had been ſubjected. He was accordingly rifled without loſs of time, and the enquiry proved well

well worth the care of him who made it; for a conſiderable booty of the ſame ſort of merchandize was found in his boots, breeches, hat, and between the buckram and lining of his ſurtout. Yet not contented with this prize, the experienced ſpoiler proceeded to ſearch his baggage, and perceiving a falſe bottom in his portmanteau, detected beneath it a valuable acceſſion to the plunder he had already obtained.

CHAP. XXX.

The ſingular manner of Fathom's attack and triumph over the virtue of the fair Elenor.

PROPER cognizance being thus taken of theſe contraband effects, and the informer furniſhed with a certificate, by which he was intitled to a ſhare of the ſeizure, the coachman ſummoned his paſſengers to the carriage; the purſe and jewels were reſtored to count Fathom, who thanked the juſtice, and his lordſhip in particular, for the candour and hoſpitality with which he had been treated, and reſumed his place in the vehicle, amidſt the congratulations of all his fellow-travellers, except the two forlorn ſmugglers, who, inſtead of reimbarking in the coach, thought proper to remain at the inn, with a view to mitigate, if poſſible, the ſeverity of their misfortune.

Among thoſe who felicitated Fathom upon the iſſue of this adventure, the young maiden ſeemed to expreſs the moſt ſenſible pleaſure at that event. The artful language of his eyes had raiſed in her breaſt certain fluttering emotions, before ſhe knew the value of her conqueſt; but now that his rank and condition were diſcovered, theſe tranſports were increaſed by the ideas of vanity and ambition, which are mingled with the firſt ſeeds of every female conſtitution. The belief of having captivated the heart of a man who could raiſe her to the rank and dignity of a

countess, produced such agreeable sensations in her fancy, that her eyes shone with unusual lustre, and a continual smile played in dimples on her rosy cheeks; so that her attraction, though not powerful enough to engage the affection, were yet sufficient to inflame the desire of our adventurer, who very honestly marked her chastity for prey to his voluptuous passion. Had she been well seasoned with knowledge and experience, and completely armed with caution against the artifice and villainy of man, her virtue might not have been able to withstand the engines of such an assailant, considering the dangerous opportunities to which she was necessarily exposed: how easily then must his victory have been over an innocent, unsuspecting country damsel, flushed with the warmth of youth, and an utter stranger to the ways of life.

While Obadiah, therefore, and his plump companion were engaged in conversation, on the strange incidents which had passed, Fathom acted a very expressive pantomime with this fair buxom nymph, who comprehended his meaning with surprizing facility, and was at so little pains to conceal the pleasure she took in this kind of intercourse, that several warm squeezes were interchanged between her and her lover, before they arrived at Rochester, where they proposed to dine. It was during this period he learned from the answers she made to the inquisitive quaker, that her sole dependance was upon a relation to whom she had a letter, and that she was a perfect stranger in the great city; circumstances on which he soon formed the project of her ruin.

Upon their arrival at the Black Bull, the for the first time found himself alone with his Amanda, whose name was Elenor, their fellow-travellers being elsewhere employed about their own concerns; and unwilling to lose the precious opportunity, he began to act the part of a very importunate lover, which he conceived to be a proper sequel to the prelude, which had

had been performed in the coach. The freedoms that ſhe, out of pure ſimplicity and good humour, permitted him to take with her hand, and even her roſy lips, encouraged him to practiſe other familiarities upon her fair boſom, which ſcandalized her virtue ſo much, that in ſpite of the paſſion ſhe had begun to indulge in his behalf, ſhe rejected his advances with all the marks of anger and diſdain; and he found it neceſſary to appeaſe the ſtorm he had raiſed, by the moſt reſpectful and ſubmiſſive demeanour; reſolving to change his operations, and carry on his attacks, ſo as to make her yield at diſcretion, without alarming her religion or pride. Accordingly when the bill was called after dinner, he took particular notice of her behaviour, and perceiving her pull out a large leathern purſe that contained her money, reconnoitred the pocket in which it was depoſited, and while they ſat cloſe to each other in the carriage, conveyed it with admirable dexterity into an hole in the cuſhion. Whether the corpulent couple, who ſat oppoſite to theſe lovers, had entered into an amorous engagement at the inn, or were ſeverally induced by other motives, is uncertain; but ſure it is, both left the coach on that part of the road which lies neareſt to Graveſend, and bade adieu to the other pair, on pretence of having urgent buſineſs at that place.

Ferdinand, not a little pleaſed at their departure, renewed his moſt pathetic expreſſions of love, and ſung ſeveral French ſongs on that tender ſubject, which ſeemed to thrill to the ſoul of his beauteous Helen. While the driver halted at Dartford to water his horſes, ſhe was ſmit with the appearance of ſome cheeſe-cakes, which was preſented by the landlady of the houſe, and having bargained for two or three, put her hand in her pocket in order to pay for her purchaſe; but what was her aſtoniſhment, when after having rummaged her equipage, ſhe underſtood her whole fortune was loſt! This mis-hap was by a loud ſhriek announced to our hero, who

affected infinite amazement and concern; and no ſooner learned the cauſe of her affliction, than he preſented her with his own purſe, from which he, in emphatic dumb-ſhew, begged ſhe would indemnify herſelf for the damage ſhe had ſuſtained. Although this kind proffer was ſome alleviation of her misfortunes, ſhe did not fail to pour forth a moſt piteous lamentation, importing that ſhe had not only loſt her money, amounting to five pounds, but alſo her letter of recommendation upon which ſhe had altogether relied for preſent employment.

The vehicle was minutely ſearched from top to bottom, by herſelf and our adventurer, aſſiſted by Maurice, and the coachman, who finding their enquiry ineffectual, did not ſcruple to declare his ſuſpicion of the two fat turtles, who had deſerted the coach in ſuch an abrupt manner. In a word, he rendered this conjecture ſo plauſible, by wreſting the circumſtances of their behaviour and retreat, that poor Elenor implicitly believed they were the thieves by whom ſhe had ſuffered; and was prevailed upon to accept the proffered aſſiſtance of the generous count, who ſeeing her very much diſordered by this miſchance, inſiſted upon her drinking a large glaſs of canary, to quiet the perturbation of her ſpirits. This is a ſeaſon, which of all others, is moſt propitious to the attempts of an artful lover; and juſtifies the metaphorical maxim of fiſhing in troubled waters. There is an affinity and ſhort tranſition betwixt all the violent paſſions that agitate the human mind: they are all falſe perſpectives, which though they magnify, yet perplex and render indiſtinct every object which they repreſent: and flattery is never ſo ſucceſsfully adminiſtered, as to thoſe who know they ſtand in need of friendſhip, aſſent and approbation.

The cordial ſhe ſwallowed, far from calming, increaſed the diſturbance of her thoughts, and produced an intoxication; during which ſhe talked in an incoherent ſtrain, laughed and wept by turns, and acted

acted other extravagancies, which are known to be ſymptoms of the hyſterical affection. Fathom, though an utter ſtranger to the ſentiments of honour, pity, and remorſe, would not perpetrate his vitious purpoſe, though favoured by the delirium his villainy had intailed upon this unfortunate young maiden; becauſe his appetite demanded a more perfect ſacrifice than that which ſhe could yield in her preſent deplorable ſituation, when her will muſt have been altogether unconcerned in his ſucceſs. Determined, therefore, to make a conqueſt of her virtue, before he would take poſſeſſion of her perſon, he mimicked that compaſſion and benevolence which his heart had never felt, and when the coach arrived at London, not only diſcharged what ſhe owed for her place, but likewiſe procured for her an apartment in the houſe, to which he himſelf had been directed for lodgings, and even hired a nurſe to attend her, during a ſevere fever, which was the conſequence of her diſappointment and deſpondence. Indeed ſhe was ſupplied with all neceſſaries by the generoſity of this noble count, who for the intereſt of his paſſion, and the honour of his name, was reſolved to extend his charity to the laſt farthing of her own money, which he had been wiſe enough to ſecure for this purpoſe.

Her youth ſoon got the better of her diſtemper, and when ſhe underſtood her obligations to the count, who did not fail to attend her in perſon with great tenderneſs, her heart, which had been before prepoſſeſſed in his favour, now glowed with all the warmth of gratitude, eſteem and affection. She knew herſelf in a ſtrange place, deſtitute of all reſource but in his generoſity: ſhe loved his perſon, ſhe was dazzled by his rank; and he knew ſo well how to improve the opportunities and advantages he derived from her unhappy ſituation, that he gradually proceeded in ſapping from one degree of intimacy to another, until all the bulwarks of her chaſtity were undermined, and ſhe ſubmitted to his

deſire; not with the reluctance of a vanquiſhed people, but with all the tranſports of a joyful city, that opens its gates to receive a darling prince, returned from conqueſt: for by this time he had artfully concentred and kindled up all the inflammable ingredients of her conſtitution; and ſhe now looked back upon the virtuous principles of her education as upon a diſagreeable and tedious dream, from which ſhe had waked to the fruition of never-fading joy.

CHAP. XXXI.

He by accident encounters his old friend, with whom he holds a conference, and renews a treaty.

OUR hero having thus provided himſelf with a proper ſubject for his hours of dalliance, thought it was now high time to ſtudy the ground which he had pitched upon for the ſcene of his exploits, and with that view made ſeveral excurſions to different parts of the town, where there was ought of entertainment or inſtruction to be found: yet he always, on theſe occaſions, appeared in an obſcure ordinary dreſs, in order to avoid ſingularity, and never went twice to the ſame coffee-houſe, that his perſon might not be afterwards known, in caſe he ſhould ſhine forth to the public, in a ſuperior ſphere. On his return from one of theſe expeditions, while he was paſſing through Ludgate, his eyes were ſuddenly encountered, by the apparition of his old friend the Tyroleze, who perceiving himſelf fairly caught in the toil, made a virtue of neceſſity, and running up to our adventurer with an aſpect of eagerneſs and joy, claſped him in his arms, as ſome dear friend, whom he had caſually found after a moſt tedious and diſagreeable ſeparation.

Fathom, whoſe genius never failed him in ſuch emergencies, far from receiving theſe advances with the threats and reproaches which the other had deſerved at his hands, returned the ſalute with equal warmth, and was really overjoyed at meeting with a perſon,

perſon, who might one way or other make amends for the perfidy of his former conduct. The Tyroleze, whoſe name was Ratchkali, pleaſed with his reception, propoſed they ſhould adjourn to the next tavern, in which they had no ſooner taken poſſeſſion of an apartment, than he addreſſed himſelf to his old companion in theſe words:

'Mr. Fathom, by your frank and obliging manner 'of treating a man who hath done you wrong, I am 'more and more confirmed in my opinion of your 'ſagacity, which I have often conſidered with admi-'ration: I will not therefore attempt to make an 'apology for my conduct at our laſt parting; but on-'ly aſſure you that this meeting may turn out to our 'mutual advantage, if we now re-enter into an unre-'ſerved union, the ties of which we will ſoon find it 'our intereſt and inclination to preſerve. For my 'own part, as my judgment is ripened by experience, 'ſo are my ſentiments changed ſince our laſt aſſocia-'tion. I have ſeen many a rich harveſt loſt, for want 'of a fellow-labourer in the vineyard; and I have 'more than once fallen a ſacrifice to a combination, 'which I could have reſiſted with the help of one 'able auxiliary. Indeed I might prove what I al-'ledge by mathematical demonſtration; and I believe 'no body will pretend to deny, that two heads are 'better than one, in all caſes that require diſcernment 'and deliberation.'

Ferdinand could not help owning the ſanity of his obſervations, and forthwith acquieſced in his propoſal of the new alliance; deſiring to know the character in which he acted in the Engliſh ſtage, and the ſcheme he would offer for their mutual emolument: at the ſame time he reſolved within himſelf, to keep ſuch a ſtrict eye over his future actions, as would fruſtrate any deſign he might hereafter harbour, of repeating the prank he had ſo ſucceſsfully played upon him, in their journey from the banks of the Rhine.

'Having quitted you at Bar-le-duc,' reſumed the

Tyroleze, 'I travelled without ceasing, until I arrived 'at Frankfort upon the Maine, where I assumed the 'character of a French chevalier, and struck some 'masterly strokes, which you yourself would not 'have deemed unworthy of your invention; and my 'success was the more agreeable, as my operations 'were chiefly carried on against the enemies of our 'religion: but my prosperity was not of long dura-'tion. Seeing they could not foil me at my own wea-'pons, they formed a damned conspiracy, by which 'I not only lost all the fruits of my industry, but like-'wise ran the most imminent hazard of my life. I 'had ordered some of those jewels which I had bor-'rowed of my good friend Fathom, to be new set in 'a fashionable taste, and soon after had an opportu-'nity to sell one of these at a great advantage, to one 'of the fraternity, who offered an extraordinary price 'for the stone, on purpose to effect my ruin. In less 'than four and twenty hours after this bargain, I was 'arrested by the officers of justice, upon the oath of 'the purchaser, who undertook to prove me guilty 'of a fraud, in selling a Saxon pebble for a real dia-'mond; and this accusation was actually true; for 'the change had been artfully put upon me, by 'the jeweller, who was himself engaged in the con-'spiracy.

'Had my conscience been clear of any other im-'peachment, perhaps, I should have rested my cause 'upon the equity and protection of the law; but I 'foresaw that the trial would introduce an inquiry, 'to which I was not at all ambitious of submitting, 'and therefore was fain to compromise the affair, at 'the price of almost my whole fortune. Yet, this ac-'commodation was not made so secretly, but that my 'character was blasted, and my credit overthrown; so 'that I was fain to relinquish my occasional equipage, 'and hire myself as journeyman to a lapidary, an em-'ployment which I had exercised in my youth. In 'this obscure station, I laboured with great assiduity,

'until

'until I made myſelf perfect in the knowledge of 'ſtones, as well as in the different methods of ſetting 'them off to the beſt advantage; and having, by dint 'of induſtry and addreſs, got poſſeſſion of a ſmall 'parcel, ſet out for this kingdom, in which I happi-'ly arrived about four months ago; and ſurely Eng-'land is the paradiſe of artiſts of our profeſſion.

'One would imagine, that nature had created the 'inhabitants, for the ſupport and enjoyment of ad-'venturers like you and me. Not that theſe iſlanders 'open the arms of hoſpitality to all foreigners without 'diſtinction: on the contrary, they inherit from their 'fathers, an unreaſonable prejudice againſt all nations 'under the ſun; and when an Engliſhman happens 'to quarrel with a ſtranger, the firſt term of reproach 'he uſes, is the name of his antagoniſt's country, cha-'racterized by ſome opprobious epithet; ſuch as a 'chattering Frenchman, an Italian ape, a German hog, 'and a beaſtly Dutchman; nay, their national pre-'poſſeſſion is maintained even againſt thoſe people 'with whom they are united, under the ſame laws 'and government; for, nothing is more common 'than to hear them exclaim againſt their fellow ſub-'jects, in the expreſſions of a beggarly Scot, and an 'impudent Iriſh bog-trotter. Yet, this very preju-'dice will never fail to turn to the account of every 'ſtranger poſſeſſed of ordinary talents; for he will 'always find opportunities of converſing with them 'in coffee houſes, and places of public reſort, in ſpite 'of their profeſſed reſerve, which, by the bye, is ſo 'extraordinary, that I know ſome people who have 'lived twenty years in the ſame houſe, without ex-'changing one word with their next door neigh-'bours; yet, provided he can talk ſenſibly, and pre-'ſerve the deportment of a ſober gentleman, in thoſe 'occaſional converſations, his behaviour will be the 'more remarkably pleaſing, as it will agreeably diſ-'appoint the expectation of the perſon, who had en-'tertained notions to his prejudice. When a foreigner

'has once croſſed this bar, which perpetually occurs, 'he ſails without further difficulty into the harbour 'of an Engliſhman's good-will; for the pique is nei- 'ther perſonal nor rancorous, but rather contemptu- 'ous and national; ſo that while he deſpiſes a people 'in the lump, an individual of that very community 'may be one of his chief favourites.

'The Engliſh are in general upright and honeſt, 'therefore unſuſpecting and credulous: they are too 'much engroſſed with their own buſineſs, to pry into 'the conduct of their neighbours; and too indifferent, 'in point of diſpoſition, to intereſt themſelves in 'what they conceive to be foreign to their own con- 'cerns. They are wealthy and mercantile, of conſe- 'quence liberal and adventurous, and ſo well diſpoſ- 'ed to take a man's own word for his importance, 'that they ſuffer themſelves to be preyed upon by 'ſuch a bungling ſet of impoſtors, as would ſtarve for 'lack of addreſs in any other country under the ſun. 'This being a true ſketch of the Britiſh character, ſo 'far as I have been able to obſerve and learn, you 'will eaſily comprehend the profits that may be ex- 'tracted from it, by virtue of thoſe arts by which you 'ſo eminently excel; "the great, the unbounded "proſpect lies before me!" Indeed, I look upon 'this opulent kingdom, as a wide and fertile com- 'mon, on which we adventurers may range for prey, 'without let or moleſtation: for ſo jealous are the 'natives of their liberty, that they will not bear the 'reſtraint of neceſſary *Police*; and an able artiſt may 'enrich himſelf with their ſpoils, without running 'any riſque of attracting the notice of the magiſtrate, 'or incurring the leaſt penalty of the law.

'In a word, this metropolis is a vaſt maſquerade, 'in which a man of ſtratagem may wear a thouſand 'different diſguiſes, without danger of detection. 'There is a variety of ſhapes, in which we knights 'of the induſtry, make our appearance in London. 'One glides into a nobleman's houſe in the capacity

'of

'of a valet de chambre, and in a few months leads 'the whole family by the nose. Another exhibits 'himself to the public, as an empiric or operator for 'the teeth; and by dint of assurance and affidavits, 'bearing testimony to wonderful cures that never 'were performed, whirls himself into his chariot, 'and lays the town under contribution: a third pro-'fesses the composition of music, as well as the per-'formance, and by means of a few *capricioso*s on the 'violin, properly introduced, wriggles himself into 'the management of private and public concerts: 'and a fourth breaks forth at once in all the splendor 'of a gay equipage, under the title and denomina-'tion of a foreign count. Not to mention those 'inferior projectors, who assume the characters of 'dancers, fencing-masters, and French ushers, or by 'renouncing their religion, seek to obtain a provi-'sion for life.

'Either of these parts will turn to the account of 'an able actor; and as you are equally qualified for 'all, you may choose that which is most suitable to 'your own inclination: though in my opinion, you 'was designed by nature to shine in the great world, 'which, after all, is the most ample field, for men 'of genius; because the game is deeper, and people 'of fashion being, for the most part, more ignorant, 'indolent, vain and capricious than their inferiors, 'are of consequence more easily deceived; besides, 'their morals sit generally so loose about them, that 'when a gentleman of our fraternity is discovered 'in the exercise of his profession, their contempt of 'his skill is the only disgrace he incurs.'

Our hero was so well pleased with this picture, that he longed to peruse the original, and before these two friends parted, they settled all the operations of the campaign. Ratchkali, that same evening, hired magnificent lodgings for count Fathom, in the court end of the town, and furnished his wardrobe and liveries from the spoils of Monmouth-street; he like-

wise

wiſe enliſted another footman and valet de chambre into his ſervice, and ſent to the apartments divers large trunks, ſuppoſed to be filled with the baggage of this foreign nobleman, though in reality, they contained little elſe than common lumber.

Next day, our adventurer took poſſeſſion of his new habitation, after having left to his friend and aſſociate the taſk of diſmiſſing the unfortunate Elenor, who was ſo ſhocked at the unexpected meſſage, that ſhe fainted away; and when ſhe recovered the uſe of her ſenſes, ſo well as to reflect upon her forlorn condition, ſhe was ſeized with the moſt violent tranſports of grief and diſmay, by which her brain was diſordered to ſuch a degree, that ſhe grew furious and diſtracted, and was by the advice and aſſiſtance of the Tyroleze, conveyed into the hoſpital of Bethlem; where we ſhall leave her for the preſent, happily bereft of her reaſon.

CHAP. XXXII.

He appears in the great world with univerſal applauſe and admiration.

MEAN while, Fathom and his engine were buſied in compleating his equipage, ſo that in a few days, he had procured a very gay chariot, adorned with painting, gilding, and acoat of arms, according to his own fancy and direction: the firſt uſe he made of this vehicle, was that of viſiting the young nobleman from whom he had received ſuch important civilities on the road, in conſequence of an invitation at parting, by which he learned his title and the place of his abode in London.

His lordſhip was not only pleaſed, but proud to ſee ſuch a ſtranger at his gate, and entertained him with exceſs of complaiſance and hoſpitality; inſomuch, that by his means our hero ſoon became acquainted with the whole circle of polite company, by whom he was careſſed for his inſinuating manners

ners and agreeable converſation. He had thought proper to tell the nobleman at their firſt interview in town, that his reaſons for concealing his knowledge of the Engliſh tongue were now removed, and that he would no longer deny himſelf the pleaſure of ſpeaking a language which had been always muſic to his ear; he had alſo thanked his lordſhip for his generous interpoſition at the inn, which was an inſtance of that generoſity and true politeneſs, which are engroſſed by the Engliſh people, who leave nought to other nations but the mere ſhadow of theſe virtues.

A teſtimony like this, from the mouth of ſuch a noble ſtranger, won the heart of the peer, who profeſſed a friendſhip for him on the ſpot, and undertook to ſee juſtice done to his lacquey, who in a ſhort time was gratified with a ſhare of the ſeiſure which had been made upon his information, amounting to fifty or ſixty pounds.

Ferdinand put not forth the whole ſtrength of his accompliſhments at once, but contrived to ſpring a new mine of qualification every day, to the ſurprize and admiration of all his acquaintance. He was gifted with a ſort of elocution, much more ſpecious than ſolid, and ſpoke on every ſubject that occurred in converſation, with that familiarity and eaſe, which, one would think, could only be acquired by long ſtudy and application. This plauſibility and confidence, are faculties really inherited from nature, and effectually ſerve the poſſeſſor, in lieu of that learning, which is not to be obtained without infinite toil and perſeverance: the moſt ſuperficial tincture of the arts and ſciences in ſuch a juggler, is ſufficient to dazzle the underſtanding of half mankind; and if managed with circumſpection, will enable him even to ſpend his life among the literati, without once forfeiting the character of a connoiſſeur.

Our hero was perfectly maſter of this legerdemain, which he carried to ſuch a pitch of aſſurance, as to declare

declare in the midſt of a mathematical aſſembly, that he intended to gratify the public with a full confutation of Sir Iſaac Newton's philoſophy, to the nature of which he was as much a ſtranger as the moſt ſavage Hottentot in Afric. His pretenſions to profound and univerſal knowledge, were ſupported not only by this kind of preſumption, but alſo by the facility with which he ſpoke ſo many different languages, and the ſhrewd remarks he had made in the courſe of his travels and obſervation.

Among politicians, he ſettled the balance of power upon a certain footing, by dint of ingenious ſchemes, which he had contrived for the welfare of Europe. With officers, he reformed the art of war, with improvements which had occurred to his reflection, while he was engaged in a military life. He ſometimes held forth upon painting, like a member of the *dillettanti* club: the theory of muſic was a theme upon which he ſeemed to expatiate with particular pleaſure: in the provinces of love and gallantry, he was a perfect Oroondates: he poſſeſſed a moſt agreeable manner of telling entertaining ſtories, of which he had a large collection: he ſung with great melody and taſte, and played upon the violin with ſurprizing execution. To theſe qualifications, let us add his affability and pliant diſpoſition, and then the reader will not wonder that he was looked upon as the pattern of human perfection, and his acquaintance courted accordingly.

While he thus captivated the favour and affection of the Engliſh nobility, he did not neglect to take other meaſures in behalf of the partnerſhip to which he had ſubſcribed The adventure with the two ſquires at Paris, had weakened his appetite for play, which was not at all reſtored by the obſervations he had made in London, where the art of gaming is reduced into a regular ſyſtem, and its profeſſors ſo laudably devoted to the diſcharge of their functions, as to obſerve the moſt temperate regimen, leſt their invention

invention ſhould be impaired by the fatigue of watching or exerciſe, and their ideas diſturbed by the fumes of indigeſtion. No Indian Brachman could live more abſtemious than two of the pack, who hunted in couple, and kennelled in the upper apartments of the hotel in which our adventurer lived: they abſtained from animal food with the abhorrence of Pythagoreans, their drink was the pure, ſimple element, they were vomited once a week, took phyſic or a glyſter every third day, ſpent the forenoon in algebraical calculations, and ſlept from four o'clock till midnight, that they might then take the field with that cool ſerenity which is the effect of refreſhment and repoſe.

Theſe were terms upon which our hero would not riſque his fortune; he was too much addicted to pleaſure to forego every other enjoyment but that of amaſſing; and did not ſo much depend upon his dexterity in play, as upon his talent of inſinuation, which, by this time, had ſucceeded ſo far beyond his expectation, that he began to indulge the hope of enſlaving the heart of ſome rich heireſs, whoſe fortune would at once raiſe him above all dependance. Indeed no man ever ſet out with a fairer proſpect on ſuch an expedition; for, he had found means to render himſelf ſo agreeable to the fair ſex, that like the boxes of the playhouſe, during the repreſentation of a new performance, his company was often beſpoke for a ſeries of weeks; and no lady, whether widow, wife or maiden, ever mentioned his name, without ſome epithet of eſteem or affection; ſuch as 'the 'dear count! the charming man! the nonpareil! 'or, the angel!'

While he thus ſhone in the zenith of admiration, it is not to be doubted, that he could have melted ſome wealthy dowager or opulent ward: but being an enemy to all precipitate engagements, he reſolved to act with great care and deliberation in an affair of ſuch importance, eſpecially as he did not find himſelf hurried

hurried by the importunities of want: for, since his arrival in England, he had rather increased than exhausted his finances, by methods equally certain and secure. In a word, he with the assistance of Ratchkali carried on a traffick, which yielded great profits, without subjecting the trader to the least loss or inconvenience. Fathom, for example, wore upon his finger a large brilliant, which he played to such advantage one night, at a certain nobleman's house, where he was prevailed upon to entertain the company with a solo on the violin, that every body present took notice of its uncommon lustre, and it was handed about for the the perusal of every individual. The water and the workmanship were universally admired; and one among the rest, having expressed a desire of knowing the value of such a jewel, the count seized that opportunity of entertaining them with a learned disquisition into the nature of stones; this introduced the history of the diamond in question, which he said had been purchased of an Indian trader of Fort St. George, at an under price; so that the present proprietor could afford to sell it at a very reasonable rate; and concluded with telling the company, that for his own part, he had been importuned to wear it, by the jeweller, who imagined it would have a better chance for attracting a purchaser on his finger, than while it remained in his own custody.

This declaration was no sooner made, than a certain lady of quality bespoke the refuse of the jewel, and desired Ferdinand to send the owner next day to her house, where he accordingly waited upon her ladyship with the ring, for which he received one hundred and fifty guineas, two thirds of the sum being clear gain, and equally divided betwixt the associates. Nor was this bargain such as reflected dishonour upon the lady's taste, or could be productive of ill consequences to the merchant: for the method of estimating diamonds is altogether arbitrary: and

Ratch-

Ratchkali, who was an exquiſite lapidary, had ſet it in ſuch a manner as would have impoſed upon any ordinary jeweller. By theſe means of introduction, the Tyroleze ſoon monopolized the cuſtom of a great many noble families, upon which he levied large contributions, without incurring the leaſt ſuſpicion of deceit: he every day out of pure eſteem and gratitude for the honour of their commands, entertained them with the ſight of ſome new trinket, which he was never permitted to carry home, unſold; and from the profits of each job, a tax was raiſed for the benefit of our adventurer.

Yet his indultos were not confined to the article of jewels, which conſtituted only one part of his revenue. By the induſtry of his underſtrapper, he procured a number of old crazy fiddles, which were thrown aſide as lumber: upon which he counterfeited the Cremona mark, and otherwiſe cooked them up with great dexterity; ſo that when he had occaſion to regale the lovers of muſic, he would ſend for one of theſe vamped inſtruments, and extract from it ſuch tones as quite raviſhed the hearers; among whom there was always ſome conceited pretender, who ſpoke in raptures of the violin, and gave our hero an opportunity of launching out in its praiſe, and declaring it was the beſt Cremona he had ever touched. This encomium never failed to inflame the deſires of the audience, to ſome one of whom, he was generous enough to part with it at prime coſt, that is, for twenty or thirty guineas clear profit; for he was often able to oblige his friends in this manner, becauſe, being an eminent connoiſſeur, his countenance was ſolicited by all the muſicians, who wanted to diſpoſe of ſuch moveables.

Nor did he neglect the other reſources of a ſkilful virtuoſo. Every auction afforded ſome picture, in which, though it had been over-looked by the ignorance of the times, he recognized the ſtile of a great maſter,

maſter, and made a merit of recommending it to ſome noble friend. This commerce he likewiſe extending to medals, bronzes, buſts, intaglios and old china, and kept divers artificers continually employed in making antiques for the Engliſh nobility. Thus he went on with ſuch rapidity of ſucceſs in all his endeavours, that he himſelf was aſtoniſhed at the infatuation he had produced. Nothing was ſo wretched among the productions of art, that he could not impoſe upon the world as a capital performance, and ſo faſcinated were the eyes of his admirers, he could eaſily have perſuaded them that a barber's baſon was an Etrurian Patera, and the cover of a copper pot, no other than the ſhield of Ancus Martius. In ſhort, it was become ſo faſhionable to conſult the count in every thing relating to taſte and politeneſs, that not a plan was drawn, not even an houſe furniſhed without his advice and approbation; nay, to ſuch a degree did his reputation in theſe matters excel, that a particular pattern of paper-hangings was known by the name of Fathom; and his hall was every morning crouded with upholſterers and other tradeſmen, who came by order of their employers, to learn his choice, and take his directions.

The character and influence he thus acquired, he took care to maintain with the utmoſt aſſiduity and circumſpection: he never failed to appear the chief perſonage at all public diverſions, and private aſſemblies, not only in converſation and dreſs, but alſo in the article of dancing; in which he outſtripped all his fellows, as far as in every other genteel accompliſhment.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXXIII.

He attracts the envy and ill offices of the minor knights of his own order, over whom he obtains a compleat victory.

SUCH a pre-eminence could not be enjoyed without exciting the malevolence of envy and detraction, in the propagation of which, none were so industrious as the brethren of his own order, who had, like him, made a descent upon this island, and could not without repining, see the whole harvest in the hands of one man, who with equal art and discretion avoided all intercourse with their society. In vain they strove to discover his pedigree, and detect the particular circumstances of his life and conversation; all their inquiries were baffled by the obscurity of his origin, and that solitary scheme which he had adopted in the beginning of his career. The whole fruit of their investigation, amounted to no more than a certainty that there was no family of any consideration in Europe, known by the denomination of Fathom; and this discovery they did not fail to divulge for the benefit of our adventurer, who had by this time taken such firm root in the favour of the great, as to set all those little arts at defiance; and when the report reached his ear, actually made his friends merry with the conjectures which had been circulated at his expence.

His adversaries finding themselves disappointed in this effort, held a consultation to devise other measures against him, and came to a resolution of ending him by the sword, or rather of expelling him from the kingdom, by the fear of death, which they hoped he had not courage enough to resist, because his deportment had been always remarkably mild and pacific. It was upon this supposition, that they left to the determination of the dice, the choice of the person who should execute their plan; and the lot falling upon a Swiss, who from the station of a foot soldier in the

Dutch

Dutch ſervice, out of which he had been drummed for theft, had erected himſelf into the rank of a ſelf-created chevalier; this hero fortified himſelf with a double doſe of brandy, and betook himſelf to a certain noted coffee-houſe, with an intent to affront count Fathom in publick.

He was lucky enough to find our adventurer ſitting at a table in converſation with ſome perſons of the firſt rank; upon which he ſeated himſelf in the next box, and after having intruded himſelf into their diſcourſe, which happened to turn upon the politicks of ſome German courts; 'Count,' ſaid he to Ferdinand, in a very abrupt and diſagreeable manner of addreſs, 'I was laſt night in company with ſome 'gentlemen, among whom a diſpute happened about 'the place of your nativity; pray, what country are 'you of?' 'Sir, anſwered the other, with great politeneſs, 'I at preſent have the honour to be of England.' 'Oho!' replied the chevalier, 'I aſk your pardon, 'that is to ſay, you are incog.—Some people may 'find it convenient to keep themſelves in that ſituation.' 'True,' ſaid the count, 'but ſome people 'are too well known to enjoy that privilege.' The Swiſs being a little diſconcerted at this repartee, which extracted a ſmile from the audience; after ſome pauſe, obſerved, that perſons of a certain claſs, had good reaſon to drop the remembrance of what they had been; but a good citizen will not forget his country or former condition. 'And a bad citizen, ſaith Fathom, 'cannot if he would, provided he has 'met with his deſerts; a ſharper may as well forget 'the ſhape of a die, or a diſcarded ſoldier the ſound 'of a drum.'

As the chevalier's character and ſtory were not unknown, this application raiſed an univerſal laugh at his expence, which provoked him to ſuch a degree, that ſtarting up, he ſwore Fathom could not have mentioned any object in nature that he himſelf reſembled ſo much as a drum, which was exactly typified by

by his emptineſs and ſound, with this difference however, that a drum was never noiſy till beaten, whereas the count would never be quiet until he ſhould have undergone the ſame diſcipline. So ſaying, he laid his hand upon his ſword with a menacing look, and walked out as if in expectation of being followed by our adventurer, who ſuffered himſelf to be detained by the company, and very calmly took notice, that his antagoniſt would not be ill pleaſed at their interpoſition. Perhaps he would not have comported himſelf with ſuch eaſe and deliberation, had not he made ſuch remarks upon the diſpoſition of the chevalier, as convinced him of his own ſafety. He had perceived a perplexity and perturbation in the countenance of the Swiſs, when he firſt entered the coffee-room; his blunt and precipitate way of accoſting him, ſeemed to denote confuſion and compulſion; and in the midſt of his ferocity, this accurate obſerver diſcerned the trepidation of fear. By the help of theſe ſigns, his ſagacity ſoon comprehended the nature of his ſchemes, and prepared accordingly for a formal defiance.

His conjecture was verified next morning by a viſit from the chevalier, who taking it for granted that Fathom would not face an adverſary in the field, becauſe he had not followed him from the coffee-houſe, went to his lodgings with great confidence, and demanded to ſee the count upon an affair that would admit of no delay. Maurice, according to his inſtructions, told him that his maſter was gone out, but deſired he would have the goodneſs to repoſe himſelf in a parlour, till the count's return, which he expected every moment. Ferdinand, who had taken poſt in a proper place for obſervation, ſeeing his antagoniſt fairly admitted, took the ſame road, and appearing before him, wrapped up in a long Spaniſh cloak, deſired to know what had procured him the honour of ſuch an early viſit. The Swiſs raiſing his voice to conceal his agitation, explained his errand, in demanding

manding reparation for the injury his honour had ſuſtained the preceding day, in that odious alluſion to a ſcandalous report which and been raiſed by the malice of his enemies; and inſiſted in a very imperious ſtile, upon his attending him forthwith to the nurſery in Hyde-park. 'Have a little patience,' ſaid our adventurer with great compoſure, 'and I will do myſelf the pleaſure to wait upon you in a few moments.'

With theſe words, he rung the bell, and calling for a baſon of water, laid aſide his cloak, and diſplayed himſelf in his ſhirt, with a ſword in his right hand, which was all over beſmeared with recent blood, as if he had juſt come from the ſlaughter of a foe. This phænomenon made ſuch an impreſſion upon the aſtoniſhed chevalier, already diſcompoſed by the reſolute behaviour of the count, that he became jaundiced with terror and diſmay, and while his teeth chattered in his head, told our hero he had hoped, from his known politeneſs, to have found him ready to acknowledge an injury which might have been the effect of anger or miſapprehenſion, in which caſe the affair might have been compromiſed to their mutual ſatisfaction, without proceeding to thoſe extremities which, among men of honour, are always accounted the laſt reſourſe. To this repreſentation Ferdinand anſwered, that the affair had been of the chevalier's own ſeeking, inaſmuch as he had intruded himſelf into his company, and treated him with the moſt inſolent and unprovoked abuſe, which plainly flowed from a premeditated deſign againſt his honour and reputation; he, therefore, far from being diſpoſed to own himſelf in the wrong, would not even accept of a public acknowledgment from him, the aggreſſor, whom he looked upon as an infamous ſharper, and was reſolved to chaſtiſe accordingly.

Here the converſation was interrupted by the arrival of a perſon who was brought to the door in a chair, and conducted into another apartment, from which

which a meſſage was brought to the count, importing, that the ſtranger deſired to ſpeak with him, upon buſineſs of the laſt importance. Fathom, having chid the ſervant for admitting people without his order, deſired the Swiſs to excuſe him for a minute longer, and went into the next room, from whence the following dialogue was overheard by this challenger. 'Count,' ſaid the ſtranger, 'you are not ignorant 'of my pretenſions to the heart of that young lady, 'at whoſe houſe I met you yeſterday; therefore you 'cannot be ſurprized when I declare myſelf diſ'pleaſed with your viſits and behaviour to my miſtreſs, 'and demand that you will inſtantly promiſe to 'drop the correſpondence.' 'Elſe what follows?' anſwered Ferdinand with a cool and temperate voice. 'My reſentment and immediate defiance;' replied the other, 'for the only alternative I propoſe is, to 'forego your deſign upon that lady, or to decide our 'pretenſions by the ſword.'

Our hero, having expreſſed a regard for this viſitant, as the ſon of a gentleman whom he honoured, was at the pains to repreſent the unreaſonableneſs of his demand, and the folly of his preſumption; and earneſtly exhorted him to put the iſſue of his cauſe upon a more ſafe and equitable footing. But this admonition, inſtead of appeaſing the wrath, ſeemed to inflame the reſentment of the opponent, who ſwore he would not leave him until he ſhould have accompliſhed the purport of his errand. In vain our adventurer requeſted half an hour for the diſpatch of ſome urgent buſineſs, in which he was engaged with a gentleman in the other parlour; this impetuous rival rejected all the terms he could propoſe, and even challenged him to decide the controverſy upon the ſpot; an expedient to which the other having aſſented with reluctance, the door was ſecured, the ſwords unſheathed, and an hot engagement enſued, to the inexpreſſible pleaſure of the Swiſs, who did not doubt that he himſelf would be ſcreened from all danger by

the event of this rencontre: nevertheleſs, his hope was diſappointed in the defeat of the ſtranger, who was quickly diſarmed, in conſequence of a wound through the ſword-arm; upon which occaſion Fathom was heard to ſay, that in conſideration of his youth and family, he had ſpared his life; but he would not act with the ſame tenderneſs towards any other antagoniſt. He then bound up the limb he had diſabled, conducted the vanquiſhed party to his chair, rejoined the chevalier with a ſerene countenance, and, aſking pardon for having detained him ſo long, propoſed they ſhould inſtantly ſet out in an hackney coach for the place of appointment.

The ſtratagem, thus conducted, had all the ſucceſs the inventor could deſire. The fear of the Swiſs had riſen almoſt to an extaſy, before the count quitted the room: but after this ſham battle, which had been preconcerted betwixt our adventurer and his friend Ratchkali, the chevalier's terrors were unſpeakable. He conſidered Fathom as a devil incarnate, and went into the coach as a malefactor bound for Tyburn. He would have gladly compounded for the loſs of a leg or arm, and entertained ſome tranſient gleams of hope, that he ſhould eſcape for half a dozen fleſh-wounds, which he would have willingly received as the price of his preſumption: but theſe hopes were baniſhed by the remembrance of that dreadful declaration which he had heard the count make, after having overcome his laſt adverſary; and he continued under the power of the moſt inſupportable pannic, until the carriage halted at Hyde-park-corner, where he crawled forth in a moſt piteous and lamentable condition; ſo that, when they reached the ſpot, he was ſcarce able to ſtand.

Here he made an effort to ſpeak, and propoſed an accommodation upon a new plan, by which he promiſed to leave his cauſe to the arbitrement of thoſe gentlemen who were preſent at the rupture, and to aſk pardon of the count, provided he ſhould be found guilty

guilty of a treſpaſs upon good manners: but this propoſal would not ſatisfy the implacable Ferdinand, who, perceiving the agony of the Swiſs, reſolved to make the moſt of the adventure, and giving him to underſtand he was not a man to be trifled with, deſired him to draw without further preamble. Thus compelled, the unfortunate gameſter pulled off his coat, and, putting himſelf in a poſture, to uſe the words of Nym, 'winked and held out his cold iron.'

Our adventurer, far from making a gentle uſe of the advantages he poſſeſſed, fiercely attacked him, while he was incapable of making reſiſtance, and aiming at a fleſhy part, ran him through the arm and outſide of the ſhoulder at the very firſt paſs: the chevalier, already ſtupified with the horror of expectation, no ſooner felt his adverſary's point in his body, than he fell to the ground, and concluding he was no longer a man for this world, began to croſs himſelf with great devotion, while Fathom walked home deliberately, and in his way ſent a couple of chairmen to the aſſiſtance of the wounded knight.

This atchievement, which could not be concealed from the knowledge of the public, not only furniſhed the character of Fathom with freſh wreathes of admiration and applauſe, but likewiſe effectually ſecured him from any future attempts of his enemies, to whom the Swiſs, for his own ſake, had communicated ſuch terrible ideas of his valour, as over-awed the whole community.

CHAP. XXXIV.

He performs another exploit, that conveys a true idea of his gratitude and honour.

IT was not long after this celebrated victory, that he was invited to ſpend part of the ſummer at the houſe of a country gentleman, who lived about one hundred miles from London, poſſeſſed of a very opulent fortune, the greateſt part of which was ex-

pended in acts of old Engliſh hoſpitality. He had met with our hero by accident at the table of a certain great man, and was ſo ſtruck with his manner and converſation as to deſire his acquaintance, and cultivate his friendſhip; and he thought himſelf extremely happy in having prevailed upon him to paſs a few weeks in his family.

Fathom, among his other obſervations, perceived that there was a domeſtic uneaſineſs, occaſioned by a very beautiful young creature about the age of fifteen, who reſided in the houſe under the title of the gentleman's niece, though ſhe was in reality his natural daughter, born before his marriage. This circumſtance was not unknown to his lady, by whoſe expreſs approbation he had beſtowed particular attention upon the education of the child, whom we ſhall diſtinguiſh by the name of Celinda: their liberality in this particular had not been miſapplied; for ſhe not only gave marks of uncommon capacity, but as ſhe grew up, became more and more amiable in her perſon, and was now returned from the boarding-ſchool, poſſeſſed of every accompliſhment that could be acquired by one of her age and opportunities. Theſe qualifications, which endeared her to every other perſon, excited the jealouſy and diſpleaſure of her ſuppoſed aunt, who could not bear to ſee her own children eclipſed by this illegitimate daughter, whom ſhe therefore diſcountenanced upon all occaſions, and expoſed to ſuch mortifications as would in all appearance drive her from her father's houſe. This perſecuting ſpirit was very diſagreeable to the huſband, who loved Celinda with a truly paternal affection, and produced abundance of family diſquiet; but being a man of a peaceable and yielding diſpoſition, he could not long maintain the reſolution he had taken in her favour, and therefore he ceaſed oppoſing the malevolence of his wife.

In this unfortunate predicament ſtood the fair baſtard at the arrival of our adventurer, who being allured

lured by her charms, and apprized of her ſituation at the ſame time, took the generous reſolution to undermine her innocence, that he might banquet his vicious appetite with the ſpoils of her beauty. Perhaps ſuch a brutal deſign might not have entered his imagination, if he had not obſerved in the diſpoſition of this hapleſs maiden certain peculiarities from which he derived the moſt confident preſages of ſucceſs. Beſides a total want of experience, that left her open and unguarded againſt the attacks of the other ſex, ſhe diſcovered a remarkable ſpirit of credulity and ſuperſtitious fear, which had been cheriſhed by the converſation of her ſchool-fellows: ſhe was particularly fond of muſic, in which ſhe had made ſome progreſs; but ſo delicate was the texture of her nerves, that one day while Fathom entertained the company with a favourite air, ſhe actually ſwooned with pleaſure.

Such ſenſibility, our projector well knew, muſt be diffuſed through all the paſſions of her heart; he congratulated himſelf upon the ſure aſcendancy he had gained over her in this particular; and forthwith began to execute the plan he had erected for her deſtruction. That he might the more effectually deceive the vigilance of her father's wife, he threw ſuch a daſh of affectation in his complaiſance towards Celinda, as could not eſcape the notice of that prying matron, though it was not palpable enough to diſoblige the young lady herſelf, who could not ſo well diſtinguiſh between overſtrained courteſy and real good breeding; this behaviour ſcreened him from the ſuſpicion of the family, who conſidered it as an effort of politeneſs, to cover his indifference and diſguſt for the daughter of his friend, who had by this time given ſome reaſon to believe ſhe looked upon him with the eyes of affection; ſo that the opportunities he enjoyed of converſing with her in private, were leſs liable to intruſion or enquiry. Indeed, from what I have already obſerved, touching the ſentiments of her ſtep-dame, that lady, far from tak-

ing meaſures for thwarting our hero's deſign, would have rejoiced at the execution of it, and, had ſhe been informed of his intent, might have fallen upon ſome method to facilitate the enterprize; but as he ſolely depended upon his own talents, he never dreamed of ſoliciting ſuch an auxiliary.

Under cover of inſtructing and accompliſhing her in the exerciſe of muſic, he could not want occaſions for promoting his aim; when after having ſoothed her ſenſe of hearing, even to a degree of raviſhment, ſo as to extort from her an exclamation, importing, that he was ſurely ſomething ſupernatural! he never failed to whiſper ſome inſidious compliment or tale of love, exquiſitely ſuited to the emotions of her ſoul. Thus was her heart inſenſibly ſubdued; though more than half his work was ſtill undone; for at all times ſhe diſcloſed ſuch purity of ſentiment, ſuch inviolable attachment to religion and virtue, and ſeemed ſo averſe to all ſorts of inflammatory diſcourſe, that he durſt not preſume upon the footing he had gained in her affection, to explain the baſeneſs of his deſire; he therefore applied to another of her paſſions, that proved the bane of her virtue: this was her timidity, which at firſt being conſtitutional, was afterward increaſed by the circumſtances of her education, and now aggravated by the artful converſation of Fathom, which he checquered with diſmal ſtories of omens, portents, prophecies and apparitions, delivered upon ſuch unqueſtionable teſtimony, and with ſuch marks of conviction as captivated the belief of the devoted Celinda, and filled her imagination with unceaſing terrors.

In vain ſhe ſtrove to diſpel thoſe frightful ideas, and avoid ſuch topics of diſcourſe for the future: the more ſhe endeavoured to baniſh them, the more troubleſome they became; and ſuch was her infatuation, that as her terrors increaſed, her thirſt after that ſort of knowledge was augmented. Many ſleepleſs nights did ſhe paſs amidſt thoſe horrors of fancy, ſtarting

ſtarting at every noiſe, and ſweating with dreary apprehenſions, yet aſhamed to own her fears, or ſolicit the comfort of a bed-fellow, leſt ſhe ſhould incur the ridicule and cenſure of her father's wife; and what rendered this diſpoſition the more irkſome, was the ſolitary ſituation of her chamber, that ſtood at the end of a long gallery, ſcarce within hearing of any other inhabited part of the houſe.

All theſe circumſtances had been duly weighed by our projector, who, having prepared Celinda for his purpoſe, ſtole at midnight from his apartment, which was in another ſtory, and approaching her door, there uttered a piteous groan; then ſoftly retired to his bed, in full confidence of ſeeing next day the effect of this operation: nor did his arrow miſs the mark: poor Celinda's countenance gave ſuch indications of melancholy and diſmay, that he could not omit aſking the cauſe of her diſquiet, and ſhe, at his earneſt requeſt, was prevailed upon to communicate the dreadful ſalutation of the preceding night, which ſhe conſidered as an omen of death to ſome perſon in the family, in all probability to herſelf, as the groan ſeemed to iſſue from one corner of her own apartment. Our adventurer argued againſt this ſuppoſition, as contradictory to the common obſervation of thoſe ſupernatural warnings, which are not uſually imparted to the perſon who is doomed to die, but to ſome faithful friend or truſty ſervant, particularly intereſted in the event. He therefore ſuppoſed, that the groans foreboded the death of my lady, who ſeemed to be in a drooping ſtate of health, and were by her genius conveyed to the organs of Celinda, who was the chief ſufferer by her jealous and barbarous diſpoſition: he likewiſe expreſſed an earneſt deſire to be an ear-witneſs of ſuch ſolemn communication, and alleging that it was highly improper for a young lady of her delicate feelings, to expoſe herſelf alone to ſuch another diſmal viſitation, begged he might be allowed to watch all night

in her chamber, in order to defend her from the ſhocking impreſſions of fear.

Though no perſon ever ſtood more in need of a companion or guard, and her heart throbbed with tranſports of diſmay at the proſpect of night, ſhe rejected his propoſal with due acknowledgment, and reſolved to truſt ſolely to the protection of heaven: not that ſhe thought her innocence or reputation could ſuffer by her compliance with his requeſt; for hitherto her heart was a ſtranger to thoſe young deſires which haunt the fancy, and warm the breaſt of youth; ſo that, being ignorant of her danger, ſhe ſaw not the neceſſity of avoiding temptation: but ſhe refuſed to admit a man into her bed-chamber, merely becauſe it was a ſtep altogether oppoſite to the forms and decorum of life. Nevertheleſs, far from being diſcouraged by this repulſe, he knew her fears would multiply, and reduce that reluctance, which, in order to weaken, he had recourſe to another piece of machinery, that operated powerfully in behalf of his deſign.

Some years ago, a twelve-ſtringed inſtrument was contrived by a very ingenious muſician, by whom it was aptly intitled the harp of Æolus, becauſe, being properly applied to a ſtream of air, it produces a wild, irregular variety of harmonious ſounds, that ſeem to be the effect of inchantment, and wonderfully diſpoſe the mind for the moſt romantic ſituations. Fathom, who was really a virtuoſo in muſic, had brought one of thoſe new-faſhioned guittars into the country, and as the effect of it was ſtill unknown in the family, he that night converted it to the purpoſes of his amour, by fixing it in the caſement of a window belonging to the gallery, expoſed to the weſt wind, which then blew in a gentle breeze. The ſtrings no ſooner felt the impreſſion of the balmy zephyr, than they began to pour forth a ſtream of melody more raviſhingly delightful than the ſong of Philomel, the warbling brook,

brook, and all the concert of the wood. The ſoft and tender notes of peace and love ſwelled up with the moſt delicate and inſenſible tranſition, into a loud hymn of triumph and exultation, joined by the deep-tuned organ, and a full choir of voices, which gradually decayed upon the ear, until it died away in diſtant ſound, as if a flight of angels had raiſed the ſong in their aſcent to heaven. Yet the chords hardly ceaſed to vibrate after the expiration of this overture, which uſhered in a compoſition in the ſame pathetic ſtile; and this again was ſucceeded by a third, almoſt without pauſe or intermiſſion, as if the artiſt's hand had been indefatigable, and the theme never to be exhauſted.

His heart muſt be quite callous, and his ear loſt to all diſtinction who could hear ſuch harmony without emotion; how deeply then muſt it have affected the delicate Celinda, whoſe ſenſations, naturally acute, were whetted to a moſt painful keenneſs by her apprehenſion, who could have no previous idea of ſuch entertainment, and was credulous enough to believe the moſt improbable tale of ſuperſtition! She was overwhelmed with awful terror, and never doubting that the ſounds were more than mortal, recommended herſelf to the care of providence in a ſucceſſion of pious ejaculations.

Our adventurer, having allowed ſome time for the effect of this contrivance, repaired to her chamber-door, and in a whiſper conveyed through the key-hole, aſked if ſhe was awake, begged pardon for ſuch an unſeaſonable viſit, and deſired to know her opinion of the ſtrange muſic which he then heard. In ſpite of her notions of decency, ſhe was glad of his intruſion, and being in no condition to obſerve punctilios, ſlipped on a wrapper, opened the door, and, with a faultering voice, owned herſelf frightened almoſt to diſtraction. He pretended to conſole her with reflections, importing, that ſhe was in the hands of a benevolent Being, who would not impoſe

upon his creatures any taſk which they could not bear; he inſiſted upon her returning to bed, and aſſured her he would not ſtir from her chamber till day. Thus comforted, ſhe betook herſelf again to reſt, while he ſat down in an elbow-chair at ſome diſtance from the bed-ſide, and, in a ſoft voice began the converſation with her, on the ſubject of thoſe viſitations from above, which, though undertaken on pretence of diſſipating her fear and anxiety, was in reality calculated for the purpoſe of augmenting both.

'That ſweet air,' ſaid he, 'ſeems deſigned for 'ſoothing the bodily anguiſh of ſome ſaint in his 'laſt moments. Hark! how it riſes into a more 'ſprightly and elevated ſtrain, as if it were an in-'ſpiriting invitation to the realms of bliſs! ſure he 'is now abſolved from all the miſery of this life; 'that full and glorious concert of voices and celeſtial 'harps betoken his reception among the heavenly 'choir, who now waft his ſoul to paradiſian joys! 'this is altogether great, ſolemn, and amazing! 'The clock ſtrikes one, the ſymphony hath ceaſed.'

This was actually the caſe; for he had ordered Maurice to remove the inſtrument at that hour, leſt the ſound of it ſhould become too familiar, and excite the curioſity of ſome undaunted domeſtic, who might fruſtrate his ſcheme, by diſcovering the apparatus. As for poor Celinda, her fancy was, by his muſic and diſcourſe, worked up to the higheſt pitch of enthuſiaſtic terrors; the whole bed ſhook with her trepidation, the awful ſilence that ſucceeded the ſupernatural muſic, threw an additional damp upon her ſpirits, and the artful Fathom affecting to ſnore at the ſame time, ſhe could no longer contain her horror, but called upon his name with a fearful accent, and having owned her preſent ſituation inſupportable, intreated him to draw near her bed-ſide, that he might be within touch on any emergency. This was a welcome requeſt to our adventurer, who, aſking pardon for his drowſineſs,

drowſineſs, and taking his ſtation on the ſide of her bed, exhorted her to compoſe herſelf; then locking her hand faſt in his own, was again ſeized with ſuch an inclination to ſleep, that he gradually ſunk down by her ſide, and ſeemed to enjoy his repoſe in that attitude. Mean while, his tender-hearted miſtreſs, that he might not ſuffer in his health by his humanity and complaiſence, covered him with the counterpane as he ſlept, and ſuffered him to take his reſt without interruption: till he thought proper to ſtart up ſuddenly with an exclamation of, 'Heaven watch 'over us!' and then aſked, with ſymptoms of aſtoniſhment, if ſhe had heard nothing. Such an abrupt addreſs, upon ſuch an occaſion, did not fail to amaze and affright the gentle Celinda, who, unable to ſpeak, ſprung towards her treacherous protector; and he, catching her in his arms, bade her fear nothing: for he would, at the expence of his life, defend her from all danger.

Having thus, by tampering with her weakneſs, conquered the firſt and chief obſtacles to his deſign, he, with great art and perſeverance, improved the intercourſe to ſuch a degree of intimacy as could not but be productive of all the conſequences which he had foreſeen. The groans and muſic were occaſionally repeated, ſo as to alarm the whole family, and inſpire a thouſand various conjectures: he failed not to continue his nocturnal viſits and ghaſtly diſcourſe, until his attendance became ſo neceſſary to this unhappy maiden, that ſhe durſt not ſtay in her own chamber without his company, nor even ſleep, except in contact with her betrayer.

Such a commerce between two ſuch perſons of a different ſex, could not poſſibly be long carried on, without degenerating from the platonic ſyſtem of ſentimental love. In her paroxyſms of diſmay, he did not forget to breathe the ſoft inſpirations of his paſſion, to which ſhe liſtened with more pleaſure, as they diverted the gloomy ideas of her fear; and by this

time his extraordinary accompliſhments had made a conqueſt of her heart. What therefore could be a more intereſting tranſition than that from the moſt uneaſy to the moſt agreeable ſenſation of the human breaſt.

This being the caſe, the reader will not wonder that a conſummate traitor, like Fathom, ſhould triumph over the virtue of an artleſs innocent young creature, whoſe paſſions he had entirely under his command. The gradations towards vice are almoſt imperceptible, and an experienced ſeducer can ſtrew them with ſuch enticing and agreeable flowers, as will lead the young ſinner on inſenſibly, even to the moſt profligate ſtages of guilt. All therefore that can be done by virtue, unaſſiſted with experience, is to avoid every trial with ſuch a formidable foe, by declining and diſcouraging the firſt advances towards a particular correſpondence with perfidious man, howſoever agreeable it may ſeem to be: for here is no ſecurity but in conſcious weakneſs.

Fathom, though poſſeſſed of the ſpoils of poor Celinda's honour, did not enjoy his ſucceſs with tranquillity. Reflection and remorſe often invaded her in the midſt of their guilty pleaſures, and embittered all thoſe moments they had dedicated to mutual bliſs. For the ſeeds of virtue are ſeldom deſtroyed at once: even amidſt the rank productions of vice, they regerminate to a ſort of imperfect vegetation, like ſome ſcattered hyacinths ſhooting up among the weeds of a ruined garden, that teſtify the former culture and amenity of the ſoil: ſhe ſighed at the ſad remembrance of that virgin dignity which ſhe had loſt; ſhe wept at the proſpect of that diſgrace, mortification, and miſery ſhe ſhould undergo, when abandoned by this tranſient lover, and ſeverely reproached him for the arts he had uſed to ſhipwreck her innocence and peace.

Such expoſtulations are extremely unſeaſonable, when addreſſed to a man well-nigh fated with the effects of his conqueſt: they act like ſtrong blaſts of

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wind applied to embers almoſt extinguiſhed, which, inſtead of reviving the flame, ſcatter and deſtroy every remaining particle of fire. Our adventurer, in the midſt of his peculiarities, had inconſtancy in common with the reſt of his ſex. More than half cloyed with the poſſeſſion of Celinda, he could not fail to be diſguſted with her upbraidings; and had ſhe not been the daughter of a gentleman whoſe friendſhip he did not think it his intereſt to forfeit, he would have dropt this correſpondence without reluctance or heſitation: but, as he had meaſures to keep with a family of ſuch conſequence, he conſtrained his inclinations ſo far, as to counterfeit thoſe raptures he no longer felt, and found means to appeaſe thoſe intervening tumults of her grief.

Foreſeeing, however, that it would not be always in his power to conſole her on theſe terms; he reſolved, if poſſible, to divide her affection, which now glowed upon him too intenſely; and with that view, whenever ſhe complained of the vapours or dejection, he preſcribed, and even inſiſted upon her ſwallowing certain cordials of the moſt palatable compoſition, without which he never travelled; and theſe produced ſuch agreeable reveries and flow of ſpirits, that ſhe gradually became enamoured of intoxication; while he encouraged the pernicious paſſion, by expreſſing the moſt extravagant applauſe and admiration at the wild irregular ſallies it produced. Without having firſt made this diverſion, he would have found it impracticable to leave the houſe in tranquillity; but when this bewitching philtre grew into an habit, her attachment to Ferdinand was inſenſibly diſſolved; ſhe began to bear his neglect with indifference, and ſequeſtring herſelf from the reſt of the family, uſed to ſolicit this new ally for conſolation.

Having thus put the finiſhing ſtroke to the daughter's ruin, he took leave of the father with many acknowledgments and expreſſions of gratitude for his hoſpitality and friendſhip, and riding croſs the country

try to Briſtol, took up his habitation near the Hot-well, where he ſtaid during the remaining part of the ſeaſon. As for the miſerable Celinda, ſhe became more and more addicted to the vices in which ſhe had been initiated by his ſuperlative perfidy and craft; until ſhe was quite abandoned by decency and caution: her father's heart was torn with anguiſh, while his wife rejoiced in her fall; at length her ideas were quite debaſed by her infirmity; ſhe grew every day more and more ſenſual and degenerate, and contracted an intimacy with one of the footmen, who was kind enough to take her to wife, in hope of obtaining a good ſettlement from his maſter; but being diſappointed in his aim, he conducted her to London, where he made ſhift to inſinuate himſelf into another ſervice, leaving to her the uſe, and partly the advantage of her own perſon, which was ſtill uncommonly attractive.

CHAP. XXXV.

He repairs to Briſtol Spring, where he reigns paramount during the whole ſeaſon.

WE ſhall therefore leave her in this comfortable ſituation, and return to our adventurer, whoſe appearance at Briſtol was conſidered as a happy omen by the proprietor of the hot-well, and all the people who live by the reſort of company to that celebrated ſpring. Nor were they deceived in their prognoſtic; Fathom, as uſual, formed the nucleus or kernel of the beau monde; and the ſeaſon ſoon became ſo crouded, that many people of faſhion were obliged to quit the place for want of lodging. Ferdinand was the ſoul that animated the whole ſociety. He not only invented parties of pleaſure, but alſo, by his perſonal talents, rendered them more agreeable: in a word, he regulated their diverſions, and the maſter of their ceremonies never would allow the ball to be begun, until the count was ſeated.

Having thus made himſelf the object of admiration and

and eſteem, his advice was an oracle, to which they had recourſe in all doubtful caſes of punctilio or diſpute, or even of medicine; for, among his other accompliſhments, his diſcourſe on that ſubject was ſo plauſible, and well adapted to the underſtanding of his hearers, that any perſon who had not actually ſtudied the medical art, would have believed he was inſpired by the ſpirit of Æſculapius. What contributed to the aggrandizement of his character in this branch of knowledge, was a victory he obtained over an old phyſician who plied at the well, and had one day unfortunately begun to harangue in the pump-room upon the nature of the Briſtol water; in the courſe of this lecture he undertook to account for the warmth of the fluid; and his ideas being perplexed with a great deal of reading, which he had not been able to digeſt, his diſquiſition was ſo indiſtinct, and his expreſſion ſo obſcure and unentertaining, that our hero ſeized the opportunity of diſplaying his own erudition, by venturing to contradict ſome circumſtances of the doctor's hypotheſis, and ſubſtituting a theory of his own, which, as he had invented it for the purpoſe, was equally amuſing and chimerical.

He alledged, that fire was the ſole viviſying principle that pervaded all nature; that as the heat of the ſun concocted the juice of vegetables, and ripened thoſe fruits that grow upon the ſurface of this globe, there was likewiſe an immenſe ſtore of central fire reſerved within the bowels of the earth, not only for the generation of gems, foſſils, and all the purpoſes of the mineral world; but likewiſe, for cheriſhing and keeping alive thoſe plants which would otherwiſe periſh by the winter's cold. The exiſtence of ſuch a fire, he proved from the nature of all thoſe volcanoes, which in almoſt every corner of the earth are continually vomiting up either flames or ſmoke. 'Theſe,' ſaid he, 'are the great vents appointed by 'nature for the diſcharge of that rarified air, and 'combuſtible matter, which, if confined, would burſt

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'the globe aſunder; but, beſides the larger outlets, 'there are ſome ſmall chimnies through which part 'of the heat tranſpires; a vapour of that ſort, I 'conceive, muſt paſs through the bed or channel of 'this ſpring, the waters of which, accordingly, retain 'a moderate warmth.'

This account, which totally overthrew the other's doctrine, was ſo extremely agreeable to the audience, that the teſty doctor loſt his temper, and gave them to underſtand, without preamble, that he muſt be a perſon wholly ignorant of natural philoſophy, who could invent ſuch a ridiculous ſyſtem, and they involved in worſe than an Ægyptian fog, that could not at once diſcern its weakneſs and abſurdity. This declaration introduced a diſpute, which was unanimouſly determined in favour of our adventurer. On all ſuch occaſions, the ſtream of prejudice runs againſt the phyſician, even though his antagoniſt has nothing to recommend himſelf to the favour of the ſpectators: and this deciſion depends upon divers conſiderations; in the firſt place, there is a continual war carried on againſt the learned profeſſions, by all thoſe who, conſcious of their own ignorance, ſeek to level the reputation of their ſuperiors with their own. Secondly, in all diſputes upon phyſic, that happen betwixt a perſon who really underſtands the art, and an illiterate pretender, the arguments of the firſt will ſeem obſcure and unintelligible to thoſe who are unacquainted with the previous ſyſtems on which they are built; while the other's theory, derived from common notions, and ſuperficial obſervation, will be more agreeable, becauſe better adapted to the comprehenſion of the hearers. Thirdly, the judgment of the multitude is apt to be biaſſed by that ſurprize which is the effect of ſeeing an artiſt foiled at his own weapons, by one who engages him only for amuſement.

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ſelf-denying ſtile of argumentation, together with a temper not to be ruffled: ſo that the victory could not long waver between him and the phyſician, to whom he was infinitely ſuperior in every acquiſition but that of ſolid learning, of which the judges had no idea. This conteſt was not only glorious but profitable to our adventurer, who grew into ſuch requeſt in his medical capacity, that the poor doctor was utterly deſerted by his patients, and Fathom's advice ſolicited by every valetudinarian in the place; nor did he forfeit the character he thus acquired by any miſcarriages in his practice; being but little converſant with the Materia Medica, the circle of his preſcriptions was very ſmall: his chief ſtudy was to avoid all drugs of rough operation, and uncertain effect; and to adminiſter ſuch only as ſhould be agreeable to the palate, without doing violence to the conſtitution. Such a phyſician could not but be agreeable to people of all diſpoſitions; and as moſt of the patients were in ſome ſhape hypochondriac, the power of imagination co-operating with his remedies, often effected a cure.

On the whole, it became the faſhion to conſult the count in all diſtempers, and his reputation would have had its run, though the death of every patient had given the lie to his pretenſions. But empty fame was not the ſole fruit of his ſucceſs. Though no perſon would preſume to affront this noble graduate with a fee; they did not fail to manifeſt their gratitude by ſome more valuable preſent: every day ſome ſuperb piece of china, curious ſnuff-box or jewel was preſſed upon him; ſo that, at the end of the ſeaſon, he could almoſt have furniſhed a toy-ſhop with the acknowledgments he had received: not only his avarice, but his pleaſure was gratified in the courſe of his medical adminiſtration. He enjoyed free acceſs, egreſs, and regreſs, with all the females at the well, and no matron ſcrupled to put her daughter under his care and direction. Theſe opportunities could

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could not be loſt upon a man of his intriguing genius; though he conducted his amours with ſuch diſcretion, that during the whole ſeaſon no lady's character ſuffered on his account; yet he was highly fortunate in his addreſſes, and we may venture to affirm, that the reproach of barrenneſs was more than once removed by the vigour of his endeavours.

CHAP. XXXVI.

He is ſmitten with the charms of a female adventurer, whoſe allurements ſubject him to a new viciſſitude of fortune.

AMONG thoſe who were diſtinguiſhed by his gallantry, was the young wife of an old citizen of London, who had granted her permiſſion to reſide at the hot-well for the benefit of her health, under the eye and inſpection of his own ſiſter, who was a maiden of fifty years. The pupil, whoſe name was Mrs. Trapwell, though low in ſtature, was finely ſhaped, her countenance engaging, though her complexion was brown, her hair in colour rivalled the raven's back, and her eyes emulated the luſtre of the diamond. Fathom had been ſtruck with her firſt appearance: but found it impracticable to elude the vigilance of her duenna, ſo as to make a declaration of his flame; until ſhe herſelf gueſſing the ſituation of his thoughts, and not diſpleaſed with the diſcovery, thought proper to furniſh him with the opportunity he wanted, by counterfeiting an indiſpoſition, for the cure of which ſhe knew his advice would be implored. This was the beginning of an acquaintaince, which was ſoon improved to his wiſh; and ſo well did ſhe manage her attractions, as in ſome meaſure to fix the inconſtancy of his diſpoſition; for at the end of the ſeaſon his paſſion was not ſated; and they concerted the means of continuing their commerce, even after their return to London.

This intercourſe effectually anſwered the purpoſe of

of the husband, who had been decoyed into matrimony by the cunning of his spouse, whom he had privately kept as a concubine before marriage. Conscious of her own precarious situation, she had resolved to impose upon the infirmities of Trapwell, and feigning herself pregnant, gave him to understand she could no longer conceal her condition from the knowledge of her brother, who was an officer in the army, and of such violent passions, that should he once discover her backsliding, he would undoubtedly wipe away the stains of his family-dishonour with her own blood, as well as that of her keeper. The citizen, to prevent such a catastrophe, took her to wife; but soon after perceiving the trick which had been played upon him, set his invention at work, and at length contrived a scheme which he thought would enable him, not only to retrieve his liberty, but also indemnify himself for the mortification he had undergone.

Far from creating any domestic disturbance, by upbraiding her with her finesse, he seemed perfectly well pleased with his acquisition; and as he knew her void of any principle, and extremely addicted to pleasure, he chose proper occasions to insinuate, that she might gratify her own inclination, and at the same time turn her beauty to good account. She joyfully listened to these remonstrances, and in consequence of their mutual agreement, she repaired to Bristol-spring, on pretence of an ill state of health, accompanied by her sister-in-law, whom they did not think proper to intrust with the real motive of her journey. Fathom's person was agreeable, and his finances supposed to be in flourishing order; therefore she selected him from the herd of gallants, as a proper sacrifice to the powers which she adored; and on her arrival in London, made her husband acquainted with the importance of her conquest.

Trapwell overwhelmed her with caresses and praise for her discreet and dutiful conduct, and faithfully promised,

miſed, that ſhe ſhould pocket in her own privy purſe one half of the ſpoils that ſhould be gathered from her gallant, whom ſhe therefore undertook to betray, after he had ſwore in the moſt ſolemn manner, that his intention was not to bring the affair to a public trial, which would redound to his own diſgrace, bu to extort a round ſum of money from the count, by way of compoſition. Confiding in this proteſtation, ſhe in a few days gave him intelligence of an aſſignation ſhe had made with our adventurer, at a certain bagnio near Covent-garden; upon which he ſecured the aſſiſtance of a particular friend and his own journeyman, with whom, and a conſtable, he repaired to the place of rendezvous, where he waited in an adjoining room according to the directions of his virtuous ſpouſe, until ſhe made the preconcerted ſignal of hemming three times aloud, when he and his aſſociates ruſhed into the chamber, and ſurpriſed our hero in bed with his inamorata.

The lady, on this occaſion, acted her part to a miracle; ſhe ſcreamed at their approach; and after an exclamation of 'ruined and undone!' fainted away in the arms of her ſpouſe, who had by this time ſeized her by the ſhoulders, and begun to upraid her with her infidelity and guilt. As for Fathom, his affliction was unutterable, when he found himſelf diſcovered in that ſituation, and made priſoner by the two aſſiſtants, who had pinioned him in ſuch a manner, that he could not ſtir, much leſs accompliſh an eſcape. All his ingenuity and preſence of mind ſeemed to forſake him in this emergency. The horrors of an Engliſh jury overſpread his imagination: for he at once perceived that the toil into which he had fallen, was laid for the purpoſe; conſequently he took it for granted, that there would be no deficiency in point of evidence. Soon as he recollected himſelf, he begged that no violence might be offered to his perſon, and intreated the huſband to favour him with a conference, in which the affair might be

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compromiſed, without prejudice to the reputation of either.

At firſt Trapwell breathed nothing but implacable revenge, but by the perſuaſion of his friends, after he had ſent home his wife in a chair, he was prevailed upon to hear the propoſals of the delinquent, who having aſſured him, by way of apology, that he had always believed the lady was a widow, made him an offer of five hundred pounds, as an atonement for the injury he had ſuſtained. This being a ſum no ways adequate to the expectation of the citizen, who looked upon the count as poſſeſſor of an immenſe eſtate, he rejected the terms with diſdain, and made inſtant application to a judge, from whom he obtained a warrant for ſecuring his perſon till the day of trial. Indeed in this caſe money was but a ſecondary conſideration with Trapwell, whoſe chief aim was to be legally divorced from a woman he deteſted. Therefore there was no remedy for the unhappy count, who in vain offered to double the ſum: he found himſelf reduced to the bitter alternative of procuring immediate bail, or going directly to Newgate.

In this dilemma he ſent a meſſenger to his friend Ratchkali, whoſe countenance fell when he underſtood the count's condition; nor would he open his mouth in the ſtile of conſolation, until he had conſulted a certain ſolicitor of his acquaintance, who aſſured him the law abounded with ſuch reſources as would infallibly ſcreen the defendant, had the fact been ſtill more palpable than it was. He ſaid, there was great preſumption to believe the count had fallen a ſacrifice to a conſpiracy, which by ſome means or other would be detected; and in that caſe the plaintiff might obtain one ſhilling in lieu of damages. If that dependance ſhould fail, he hinted, that in all probability the witneſſes were not incorruptible; or ſhould they prove to be ſo, one man's oath was as good as another's, and thank heaven there was no dearth

dearth of evidence, provided money could be found to anſwer the neceſſary occaſions.

Ratchkali comforted by theſe inſinuations, and dreading the reſentment of our adventurer, who in his deſpair, might puniſh him ſeverely for his want of friendſhip, by ſome precipitate explanation of the commerce they had carried on; moved, I ſay, by theſe conſiderations, and moreover tempted with the proſpect of continuing to reap the advantages reſulting from their conjunction, he and another perſon of credit with whom he largely dealt in jewels, condeſcended to become ſureties for the appearance of Fathom, who was accordingly admitted to bail. Not but that the Tyroleze knew Ferdinand too well, to confide in his parole: he depended chiefly upon his ideas of ſelf intereſt, which, he thought, would perſuade him to riſk the uncertain iſſue of a trial, rather than quit the field before the harveſt was half over; and he reſolved to make his own retreat without ceremony, ſhould our hero be unwiſe enough to abandon his bail.

Such an adventure could not long lie concealed from the notice of the public, even if both parties had been at pains to ſuppreſs the circumſtances: but the plaintiff, far from ſeeking to cover, affected to complain loudly of his misfortune, that he might intereſt his neighbours in his behalf, and raiſe a ſpirit of rancour and animoſity, to influence the jury againſt this inſolent foreigner, who had come over into England to debauch our wives and deflower our daughters; while he employed a formidable band of lawyers to ſupport the indictment, which he laid for ten thouſand pounds damages.

Mean while, Fathom and his aſſociate did not fail to take all proper meaſures for his defence; they retained a powerful bar of council, and the ſolicitor was ſupplied with one hundred pounds after another, to anſwer the expence of ſecret ſervice; ſtill aſſuring his clients that every thing was in an excellent train,

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and that his adverſary would gain nothing but ſhame and confuſion of face. Nevertheleſs, there was a neceſſity for poſtponing the trial, on account of a material evidence, who, though he wavered, was not yet quite brought over; and the attorney found means to put off the deciſion from term to term, until there was no quibble left for further delay. While this ſuit was depending, our hero continued to move in his uſual ſphere; nor did the report of his ſituation at all operate to his diſadvantage, in the polite world: on the contrary, it added a freſh plume to his character, in the eyes of all thoſe who were not before acquainted with the triumphs of his gallantry. Notwithſtanding this countenance of his friends, he himſelf conſidered the affair in a very ſerious light; and perceiving that at any rate he muſt be a conſiderable loſer, he reſolved to double his aſſiduity in trade, that he might be the more able to afford the extraordinary expence to which he was ſubjected.

CHAP. XXXVII.

Freſh cauſe for exerting his equanimity and fortitude.

THE reader may have obſerved, that Fathom with all his circumſpection, had a weak ſide, which expoſed him to ſundry miſchances: this was his covetouſneſs, which on ſome occaſions became too hard for his diſcretion: at this period of time, it was, by the circumſtances of his ſituation, inflamed to a degree of rapacity. He was now prevailed upon to take a hand at whiſt, or piquet, and even to wield the hazard-box; though he had hitherto declared himſelf an irreconcileable enemy to all ſorts of play; and ſo uncommon was his ſucceſs and dexterity at theſe exerciſes, as to ſurprize his acquaintance, and arouſe the ſuſpicion of ſome people, who repined at his proſperity.

But in nothing was his conduct more inexcuſable, than in giving way to the dangerous temerity of Ratchkali,

kali, which he had been always at pains to reſtrain, and permitting him to practiſe the ſame fraud upon an Engliſh nobleman, which had been executed upon himſelf at Franckfort. In other words, the Tyroleze by the canal of Ferdinand's finger and recommendation, ſold a pebble for a real brilliant, and in a few days the cheat was diſcovered, to the infinite confuſion of our adventurer, who nevertheleſs aſſumed the guiſe of innocence with ſo much art, and expreſſed ſuch indignation againſt the villain, who had impoſed upon his judgment and unſuſpecting generoſity, that his lordſhip acquitted him of any ſhare in the deceit, and contented himſelf with the reſtitution, which he inſiſted upon making out of his own pocket, until he ſhould be able to apprehend the rogue, who had thought proper to abſcond for his own ſafery. In ſpite of all this exculpation, his character did not fail to retain a ſort of ſtigma, which indeed the plaineſt proofs of innocence are hardly able to efface; and his connection with ſuch a palpable knave as the Tyroleze appeared to be, had an effect to his prejudice, in the minds of all thoſe who were privy to the occurrence.

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End of Vol. II.

Of The Adventures of Count Fathom.